THE Valley INDEPENDENT

An Edition of the TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Pens lose

The Pens blew a two-goal lead in the third period then lost in overtime. **1B**

Bush budget bashed

President Bush's budget proposal is expected to garner little support. **5A**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2008 RELEVANT, RELIABLE WWW.VALLEYINDEPENDENT.COM 50¢

INSIDE TODAY

Valley Profile

Cindy Hartley's work as a motorcycle safety crusader has paid off. **3A**

Area man guilty

A Finleyville man has pleaded guilty to child pornography charges. **3A**

Brains displayed

Former Allegheny County Coroner Cyril H. Wecht's brains were on full display Monday. **3A**

SPORTS

Eli wants Peyton

With one Super Bowl victory in hand, Eli Manning wants another -- over his brother, Peyton. **1B**

Pairings tonight

The WPIAL will conduct its annual basketball playoff pairing meeting tonight in Corapolis. **1B**

Dudzinski No. 2

With 21 points in Belle Vernon Area's regular season final, Jacob Dudzinski became the school's No. 2 all-time scorer. **1B**

DEATHS

- Tony Alfidi, 73, Sacramento, Calif.
- Jerry J. Beetlestone, 36, Donora
- Ross C. Huhn, 86, Stockdale
- Ann Kusmirak, Donora
- Patsy S. Martucci, 74, Monessen
- Francis Patrick "Frank" Ramsden, 86, Lower Burrell
- Frank M. Thomas, 89, Pittsburgh (North Hills)

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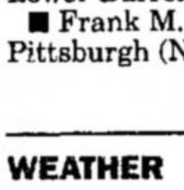
WEATHER



Tonight
Rain 50°
Tomorrow
Rain 58°

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Two sections, 18 pages

TOMORROW

Westmoreland County's search for industrial sites could be good news for the Mon Valley.

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Super Tuesday under way

24 states at stake

The presidential candidates spent millions in efforts to woo voters.

By CALVIN WOODWARD
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON – Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton fought for a breakout in their eyeball-to-eyeball Democratic duel while Republican John McCain hoped to bury his rival's presidential hopes in a blur of voting today from Alaska to the Atlantic.

An enormous cache of delegates was at stake – not enough to clinch a nomination but plenty enough to mint a runaway favorite, or even two.

The days of retail politicking in rustic diners was a distant memory, although just weeks old.

Sens. Clinton and Obama each poured more than $1 million a day into TV ads in the last week alone; Clinton buying an hour on the Hallmark Channel for a town hall meeting on Monday night, Obama seeing some $250,000 disappear in 30 seconds in his Super Bowl ad a day earlier.

Elizabeth Bonane, a U.S. citizen living in Thailand, casts her vote in the U.S. presidential primary today at a polling station in Bangkok.

Associated Press

Clinton's voice was raspy from the ragged pace and she joked about her weariness on David Letterman's "Late Show." She didn't dare have a beer while watching the Super Bowl at a Minneapolis bar "only because I am so tired I thought I might still be there if I had."

Obama was stoic, too, telling a Hartford, Conn., rally, "I may be skinny, but I'm tough."

The electoral territory was vast and so were the stakes. Mitt Romney, his Republican bid on the line, boomeranged across the country and back in a 37-hour dash, branding himself the true Ronald Reagan conservative at every stop.

"I think you're going to see a growing crescendo of Republican

(See STATES, Page 2A)

Casino applicant process criticized

Complaints came in the wake of perjury charges against a Scranton license holder.

By MIKE WERESCHAGIN
For The Valley Independent
mwereschagin@tribweb.com

The vetting process for deciding who gets casino licenses is "broken," and the state attorney general and police should lead it in the future, state House Republicans said Monday.

Their complaints came a day before Mount Airy Casino owner Louis DeNaples was scheduled to appear before the state Gaming Control Board to try to win back his casino license. The board suspended DeNaples' license last week when he was charged with perjury.

The Dauphin County district attorney charges DeNaples lied to the gaming board about his ties to two reputed mob figures and two other men at the center of a federal corruption investigation in Philadelphia.

State police knew about a conversation recorded on a federal wiretap tying DeNaples, a Scranton businessman, to Samsud-din Ali and the late Ron White, who are being investigated in a corruption probe involving Philadelphia City Hall, according to Dauphin County District Attorney Edward Marsico Jr.

Police did not pass that along to gaming board investigators, however, for fear of compromising the federal investigation.

"What you have right now is a complete gap in communication," said Rep. Douglas Reichley, R-Allentown.

Reichley co-sponsored a Republican bill seeking to make the attorney general and state police responsible for checking the background of anyone who wants to own a casino in Pennsylvania.

The gambling law, passed in 2004, makes the Gaming Control Board responsible for background checks. It doesn't give board members the same legal authority as the state police or attorney

(See CASINO, Page 2A)

LENT BEGINS WEDNESDAY

Associated Press

Race car driver Hello Castroneves prepares to throw beads to the crowd during the Krewe of Orpheus Mardi Gras parade Monday in New Orleans. Carnival revelers enjoyed one more day of parades in advance of today – Fat Tuesday.

Rendell budget ready

The governor is calling for bipartisan cooperation on his economic package.

By MARC LEVY
Associated Press Writer

HARRISBURG – Gov. Ed Rendell wants lawmakers to give nearly a half-million low-income families up to $400 each, set aside hundreds of millions of dollars for business incentives and bridge rebuilding, and increase spending substantially on public schools.

Borrowing a page from President Bush's playbook, he asked the Legislature for bipartisan cooperation on his economic-stimulus proposals and warned that the public expects quick action, not partisan fighting.

"They don't want to see us haggle, they don't want to see us call each other names," Rendell said Monday. "They want to see us act."

Overall, spending from the state's main bank account would increase by 4.2 percent, which the governor said is about the current inflation rate, boosting the state budget for the year starting July 1 to $28.3 billion. He is not proposing any broad-based tax increases, but is asking for some smaller increases.

Rendell said the budget increase is linked primarily to rising state prison populations and the growing cost of providing health care for the poor and elderly. He flatly dismissed Republican proposals to cut taxes and approve a budget with no spending increase.

"The time to do a rebate for our hardest working families is now, because that will pump money into the economy, but reducing the personal income tax of a multimillionaire won't do anything" to

(See RENDELL, Page 2A)

Spending plan highlights

Under Gov. Ed Rendell's 2008-09 proposal:

- Spending would grow by $1.1 billion, or 4.2 percent, to $28.3 billion
- Public schools would get an additional $291 million, an increase of 5.9 percent.
- $600 million would be borrowed over three years to replace aging and crumbling bridges.
- $130 million would be drawn from budget reserves to provide payments of up to $400 to 475,000 low-income families.
- $100 million would be borrowed to make abandoned sites ready for occupation by new businesses.
- $100 million would be spent over three years on flood-control projects, to be paid in part by a surcharge on property insurance premiums.
- Low-interest loans for municipal infrastructure projects would grow by $13 million to $30 million.
- $20 million, double the current expenditure, would be spent to increase the number of police officers across the commonwealth.

Source: Rendell administration

Tax help sought for business

By THOMAS OLSON
For The Valley Independent
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Businesses are pushing Gov. Ed Rendell to lighten some of Pennsylvania's heavy business-tax burdens on the eve of his budget address to stimulate the state's economy.

"I think we're going to have to get the governor to move in this direction because he won't move there himself," said Pa. Rep. Mike Turzai, R-Bradford Woods, on Monday.

"Pressure will have to come from legislators and from employers," said Turzai, the sponsor of three business-tax reform bills awaiting state house hearings. Pennsylvania ranked 42nd for economic competitiveness in the National Tax Foundation's corporate tax index last year, he said.

In Turzai's and business group's sights are the corporate net income tax rate and the way it's figured. Currently, Pennsylvania taxes a corporation's net income at 9.99 percent, which is the highest rate of its kind in the nation.

The taxed income is figured 70

(See HELP, Page 2A)

VALLEY PEOPLE

Casino (FROM PAGE ONE)

general when it comes to getting applicants' personal information, though.

No matter who oversees the background check, information about an ongoing criminal investigation could not be given to a civilian board, said David Kwait, director of the gaming board's Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement.

"Every other (state with legal gambling) does the same thing," Kwait said. "We license based on the provable facts we have at the moment."

State police wouldn't even tell gaming board members that there was a "problem" with an applicant, for fear of jeopardizing the investigation, said state police spokesman Jack Kelly. If they did, however, it would likely be legal, he said.

House minority leader Sam Smith, R-Punxsutawney, and Sen. Jeffrey Piccola, R-Dauphin, urged fellow lawmakers to open the gaming board's licensing process to public scrutiny. The board still hasn't explained how Don Barden, owner of the Majestic Star Casino being built on the North Shore, was chosen over two other applicants.

"This is a black eye on Pennsylvania," said Piccola, who called a secret licensing process tantamount to "hanging out a (welcome) sign to organized crime."

Rendell (FROM PAGE ONE)

stimulate the economy, Rendell said one day before his annual budget speech to the Legislature.

Aides said Rendell held the unusual pre-speech budget briefing because he was worried about being upstaged by election news on Super Tuesday, when two dozen states are holding presidential delegate-selection events.

Under the proposed additional aid for low-income Pennsylvanians, the state would offer one-time payments of up to $400 to about 475,000 families. The $130 million cost would be paid by the state's budget reserve, called the "rainy day" fund, and be repaid from the government's surplus after the fiscal year ends June 30.

Families who are eligible are part of the state's "Commonwealth Tax Back" program. They typically have at least one dependent and do not earn enough to pay income taxes, although the Rendell administration could not immediately provide income limits for eligibility.

While several dozen House Republicans called Monday for a budget that would maintain this year's $27.2 billion level, Rendell said his proposed increase simply keeps up with the cost of living.

Rendell also is asking for an additional $291 million for public schools, an increase of 5.9 percent to $5.2 billion. More of the money would be directed to school districts that serve a disproportionate number of poor children or children learning to speak English.

Another proposal would require property owners to pay a new 7-cent-per-$100 fee on property insurance premiums to help pay for $100 million in proposed spending on flood control projects over three years.

Rendell also wants to borrow $600 million over three years to help fix the state's crumbling bridges and inject $100 million into an existing program that gets abandoned sites ready for new businesses. The debt would be repaid with existing tax revenue.

He proposed raising the state's debt limit by $750 million to help finance civic development projects, such as parks and museums.

At a news conference Monday in Philadelphia, he also proposed putting more police officers on the streets by doubling funding for patrol grants to $20 million a year.

House Republicans rolled out their own budget proposals Monday that included income, business and electricity tax cuts and a moratorium on new state borrowing.

They proposed a requirement that department heads identify inefficient operations and areas where spending could be cut.

Rep. Mike Turzai, R-Allegheny, the GOP caucus' policy chairman, said tax cuts of about $450 million a year would stimulate the state economy at a time when many are predicting recession.

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Planning to Tie the Knot?

Our upcoming special section, Brides, was created especially for brides-to-be. Inside, you'll find features designed to help you plan the perfect wedding day and beyond. From the latest bridal fashions and flowers to financial planning advice, invitation etiquette and honeymoon hot spots, there's something for everyone ... including the groom.

Save the Date!

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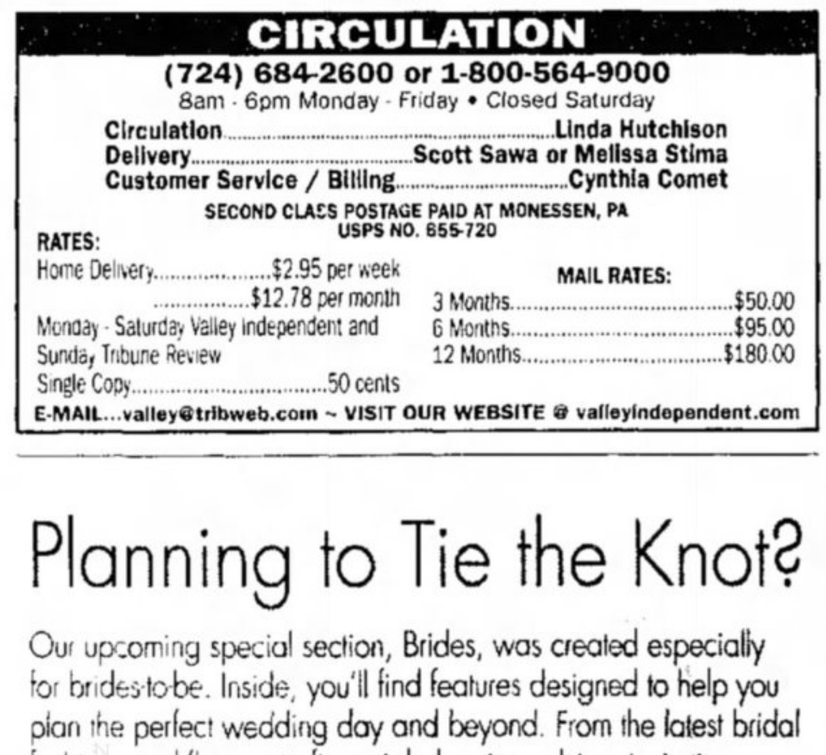

Yesteryear

Here are the Rostraver Hi-Steppers, photographed at the Snow Ball Dance at Rostraver High School. Kneeling, from left, are Audrey Gibbs, Sally Marcinak, Donna Santmyer and Judy Treadwell. Standing are Mary Anne Radzik, Patty Hamilton, Janet Sickles, Joanna Smichnick, Cassie Lee and Selma Groeser. The photo was submitted by Joanna Granato, of Coal Center.

Weather

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
High 58	High 38	High 42	High 38	High 22
Low 28	Low 25	Low 25	Low 20	Low 10

Help (FROM PAGE ONE)

percent on a company's sales, 15 percent on assets and 15 percent on payroll.

So, a company based in the state, employing people here and selling to Pennsylvania customers, pays much more than an out-of-state company that sells in Pennsylvania but has no other presence here.

"That's hardly an incentive to open factories and operations in Pennsylvania," said David Patti, president of the Pennsylvania Business Council, a Harrisburg group with 230 corporate members, including Pittsburgh's largest companies. "The more assets and payroll you have here, the higher the tax."

The council wants Pennsylvania to adopt a structure that would base the corporate net income tax on sales alone. Eleven states figure it this way, said CompetePA, a business coalition pressing from state tax reform. And four states have no corporate net income taxes at all.

"I don't think this is the time" to cut business taxes, said Gov. Ed Rendell yesterday at a news conference in Harrisburg that previewed his budget address scheduled for today.

"But we know there is a growth gap between ourselves and many parts of the country that will continue to dampen business expansions and job creation, unless we make changes," said Mike Langley, chief executive of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, which is a CompetePA member.

The other aspect of the corporate net income tax ripe for fixing, say tax reformers, is the net operating loss carry-forward. It allows companies with losses – very often, start-ups – to apply those losses against profits in later years to lessen their tax burden and encourage growth.

But of the 48 states that have net operating loss mechanisms in their taxes, Pennsylvania is the only state to cap their use. A Pennsylvania company can't apply losses greater than $3 million or 12.5 percent of taxable income, whichever is greater. The business council wants the cap removed.

"It's a problem for the very companies we're trying to attract to Pennsylvania," Patti said. "Biotech, information software and green energy (companies) have a lot of start-up costs, and so they have a lot of losses in their early years."

Reforms don't come easily in Pennsylvania. For instance, the capital stock and franchise tax, an arcane and often-criticized levy, was supposed to have been phased out by now from its 11.99 percent level in 1998, said Patti. Instead, it's at 3.99 percent.

Patti said Tom Ridge did lower the corporate net income tax rate to 9.99 percent when he was governor in 2000. But despite Ridge's indications the rate would be reduced further, "it never materialized," said Patti. "Why, I don't know."

States (FROM PAGE ONE)

conservatives getting behind my candidacy," the former Massachusetts governor said.

He conceded: "Right now that hasn't entirely happened."

McCain struggled to close the sale with his party's base after coming strikingly far without its solid support. "I will preserve my proud conservative Republican credentials" while extending a practiced hand to Democrats, he promised.

Romney sought until the end to exploit the right's mistrust of McCain, an Arizona senator who opposed President Bush's tax cuts when they were introduced, departed from orthodoxy on immigration, favors mandates to slow global warming and led campaign finance reforms that activists say trampled on their speech rights.

McCain responded with a TV ad reminding people Romney had changed some stripes. It showed Romney in a 1994 debate calling himself "an independent during the time of Reagan-Bush. I'm not trying to return to Reagan-Bush."

Romney campaigned from Tennessee to California on the eve of the voting, only to turn back to attend West Virginia's nominating convention Tuesday. McCain, Obama and Clinton clustered in the hotly competitive Northeast.

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee focused on the South, his continued candidacy an open question – as was Romney's viability, if he couldn't pull off surprises Tuesday.

After months when it was all about expectations and momentum, not to mention confusion, real numbers finally became important.

The two dozen contests Tuesday were delivering 1,023 Republican and 1,681 Democratic delegates. The number needed to win the nomination: 1,191 Republican and 2,025 Democratic.

John Edwards' departure after South Carolina's primary simplified the math but little else on the Democratic side.

Since winning that state, Obama has collected a succession of marquee endorsements – several of them named Kennedy – and pulled into a statistical tie with Clinton in a national poll and in California, today's biggest prize with 370 Democratic delegates.

The two were campaigning for history as well – Clinton seeking to become the first female president, Obama the first black one.

Little separates them on most issues, including universal health coverage, ending U.S. military involvement in Iraq and raising taxes on the rich.

And neither has accounted fully for all their proposed spending.

Instead, the campaign has turned on her experience and his vision of change, debated intensely but with more civility in the latest round than when former President Clinton, purposefully or not, brought racial sensitivities to the surface in stumping for his wife.

Party rules were stacked against a knockout today for Democrats. All their primaries and caucuses were awarding delegates proportionately, so coming in second counted. In the Republican field, nine contests offered all delegates to the winner.

Among the most closely watched races:

- California, where Obama made up ground against longtime poll leader Clinton, and Romney bid for an upset. McCain planned to campaign there Tuesday after a morning rally at Rockefeller Center in New York.

State election officials said at least 3 million Californians already had voted, via mail-in ballot, out of 5.5 million ballots issued.

They predicted that about 1 million of the remaining ballots would be cast Tuesday. Mail-in ballots are the last to be counted, increasing the odds of protracted suspense in the West.

- Missouri: A toss-up in both parties
- New York: Clinton's territory as senator, but Illinois Sen. Obama didn't concede it.
- New Jersey: Another state where the Democratic race tightened.
- New Mexico, Arizona: Along with California, states with large Hispanic populations, which to date have favored Clinton.
- Connecticut: A Democratic battleground.
- Georgia: A three-way toss-up among McCain, Romney and Huckabee.

McCain was favored in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Delaware and his home state of Arizona, with 251 delegates combined. Romney hoped to counter with victories in Utah and West Virginia, as well as in a string of caucuses in Western and Midwestern states.

Valley briefs

Man guilty in child porn case

A Finleyville man pleaded guilty to child pornography charges Monday.

Jon Grimm, 39, of 253 Stone Church Road, pleaded guilty to one count of receiving child pornography before Chief U.S. District Judge Donetta Ambrose.

In connection with the guilty plea, Assistant U.S. Attorney Soo C. Song advised the court that two separate undercover on-line investigations led state police to Grimm as an individual sharing thousands of files via a peer-to-peer computer network.

A search warrant executed at Grimm's home in May uncovered "an exceptionally large volume of child pornography, including sado-masochistic depictions of infants and pre-pubescent children engaging in sexually explicit conduct."

Sentencing for Grimm has been scheduled for May 2.

Grimm remains free on bond, but under court supervision.

Ex-councilwoman heading to prison

A former Pittsburgh councilwoman was sentenced Monday to one to two years in prison for paying three friends for meaningless consultant work so they could give her back more than $43,000 in city funds.

Twanda Carlisle apologized and said she had "no malicious intent."

"I'm earnestly sorry for my misdoings, and all the misdoings I did," she told Allegheny County Judge John Zottola.

Carlisle, however, also told Zottola that, if she did something wrong, "the error was in the record keeping and in the bookkeeping."

Zottola rejected pleas for leniency from Carlisle, her attorney and eight character witnesses, including M. Gayle Moss, president of the Pittsburgh chapter of the NAACP.

The judge said he was sentencing Carlisle to prison with "equal shares of sadness and outrage."

Prosecutors said Carlisle helped the friends get paid for consulting work that was either not completed or useless. In turn, they gave her most of the money, which she spent on trips to San Francisco, Boston, Las Vegas and Aruba, televisions, a laptop computer, jewelry and a $4,400 fur coat.

Architect, builder blamed for collapse

A world-renowned architect and a steel contractor are to blame for the collapse one year ago today at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Pittsburgh and Allegheny County officials said Monday.

The wrong pieces of steel, incorrectly placed bolts and steel defects all contributed to the collapse of the center's loading dock area onto 10th Street, the officials said during a news conference.

"There were a number of design and construction defects that led to this collapse," said Andrew Osborn, the lead investigator from Cleveland-based Wiss Janney Elstner Associates, which the city-county Sports & Exhibition Authority hired last year.

The authority wants Rafael Vinoly Architects, the designer from New York City, and ADF International, a steel contractor from Terrebonne, Canada, to pay $2 million to help pay for the damage.

Jeff Pikulsky/The Valley Independent

Charleroi resident Cindy Hartley displays the award she recently received from state Alliance of Bikers Aimed Toward Education for her work to inform non-riders about how to understand motorcycle riders and their capabilities and limitations on the road.

Motorcycle safety Hartley's goal

By JEFF PIKULSKY
Staff Writer
jpikulsky@tribweb.com

Valley pro

A weekly look at one of our neighbors

Cindy Hartley's work as a motorcycle safety crusader has paid off.

The 54-year-old Charleroi resident recently received an award for her work to inform non-riders about how to understand motorcycle riders and their capabilities and limitations on the road.

Hartley received an Award of Appreciation for 2007 from the state Alliance of Bikers Aimed Toward Education, a nonprofit organization that promotes motorcycle safety and awareness.

Hartley, a part-time skin care technician, has spent most of her free time in the last four years spreading the word about the organization's "Operation Save-a-Life."

The program is designed to help people who don't ride motorcycles understand bikers' tendencies and methods of navigating roadways.

"We don't try to turn anybody into bikers," she said. "We don't try to have you sign papers to join ABATE or anything."

Receiving the award has become an incentive for Hartley to complete her mission to make presentations at all Mid-Mon Valley schools.

A former president of the ABATE Washington County branch, Hartley is now the Operation Save-a-Life Director for ABATE's District 3, which comprises the Valley and surrounding communities.

Hartley has tried to tell young drivers how to avoid accidents with motorcycles.

She has given free, one-hour talks to a few Valley student bodies but admits that she is far from her goal.

"I've called every school," she said. "I just think they should have a chance with this program and there are a lot of schools that aren't doing this and the government highly recommends this for all the schools."

Her mission has been an exercise in patience and persistence.

"I have it down to a fine science right now," Hartley said. "I get up and I annoy people with my calls and tomorrow, if I don't hear from them, I call them again."

Hartley, who has ridden on motorcycles since she was 13, said she set out to dissolve the stigma that bikers are trouble.

"That's the first thing that I go into," she said of her talks.

"I go in and I'm dressed professionally. I'll say some people have the reactions that all motorcyclists wear leather, have long hair and have beards and tattoos.

"You can't judge people for what they ride and you can't just think that it's a toy.

"To respect that person is like respecting another four-wheeled vehicle."

Hartley said she uses humor to break the ice when she addresses younger crowds.

Her husband, Mike, and 17-year-old son, Sebastian, have helped her talk to students.

Hartley said it has been effective to have her son speak to his age group about safety.

Hartley and her crew take a motorcycle into the schools to demonstrate such things as biker hand signals.

She also stresses that young drivers pay close attention to motorcyclists and refrain from using cell phones while driving so they can pay more attention to the road.

Hartley said she will make a presentation to any community organization.

While she represents Valley communities, Hartley said her services are not limited only to that locale.

"I cover any county that wants me," she said. "I will go across the state if they want me to."

Hartley said her talks have been well received at about 10 schools she has visited.

She is puzzled as to why others aren't as willing to listen.

"The schools are hard," she said.

"I can't understand why they don't want someone coming in there for a free presentation to their students. I'm not going to give up."

For more information about Hartley's non-rider motorcycle safety demonstrations, call her at (724) 483-2124.

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Doctor describes working for Wecht

Former Allegheny County neuropathologist handled public and private work identically.

By JASON CATO
For The Valley Independent
jcato@tribweb.com

Former Allegheny County Coroner Cyril H. Wecht's brains were on full display Monday.

During Day 5 of the famed forensic pathologist's public corruption trial, a federal prosecutor spent nearly two hours flashing more than 35 photographs of whole and dissected brains on video monitors throughout the courtroom.

"I would examine the Wecht brains and treat them like the way I treated brains for the coroner's office," said prosecution witness Dr. Bennet Omalu, a former county neuropathologist.

The brains belonged to Wecht's private clients, and Omalu examined each of them in the county morgue, he testified before U.S. District Judge Arthur J. Schwab.

"This is one of the brains I cut in 2002," Omalu said of one photograph, often referring to the dissections as "bread-loaf sections."

Assistant U.S. Attorney James Wilson spared the jurors by showing them only a few of the images. He asked Omalu, now the chief medical examiner in San Joaquin County, Calif., to refrain from going into the "gory details."

Wilson produced a log book kept by former county chief histologist George Hollis, who kept meticulous records for work he did on Wecht's private cases.

Omalu said Hollis worked on private cases at the morgue, and said several clerical employees with the county handled paperwork and bookkeeping duties for Wecht's private cases.

Prosecutors claim Wecht, 76, of Squirrel Hill, used his public office for private gain. Among the government's allegations is that he had county employees do work for his consulting business while on county time.

The first week of testimony largely focused on deputy coroners being ordered to perform "Wecht Details," or personal errands for the coroner, while on duty. Some witnesses testified that bodies sometimes were left waiting at the scene while deputies ran these errands.

Yesterday's first witness, Ronnel Hamiel, said she cut a meeting short with Wecht after he began to berate an employee for complaining the errands interfered with her job duties.

Hamiel, a representative with the Service Employees International Union, said Wecht grilled the woman about whether she knew what his job duties entailed and reminded her she was hired because he knew one of her relatives.

"Just because you gave her a job doesn't mean you own her," Hamiel said she told Wecht.

Hamiel said she ended the meeting after Wecht told her he'd dealt with unions since she was in diapers.

The employee resigned and moved to Canada, Hamiel said. An unfair labor practice charge filed against Wecht in that case was denied for being untimely.

I Made A Mistake And Now My Company's Left With 31 Furnaces That Need To Be Sold Within 6 Weeks

Normally I've been fairly conservative when I place winter orders for furnaces, but I guess this year I got a little too aggressive. However, I had two good reasons. The end of last year was extremely busy compared to our previous year and I knew the newest furnaces would save even more energy than the ones from the previous year. So, now it has turned out that I ordered more than we needed.

In some industries, this wouldn't be any big deal, but the heating industry is different. You see, this is a very seasonal business. The odds are that if the 31 systems in our inventory don't sell within the next 6 weeks, I'll be left carrying many of them until Fall of 2008...So, here's what we have decided to do in hopes of selling all of these units.

If you purchase one of these 31 units, we will do either one of two things for you; we will give you a 21% discount off the price of one of these furnaces or if you would like a new air conditioner for this summer, we'll sell you the furnace for $887 when you buy the air conditioner along with the furnace (this option is your biggest money saver).

If you are interested in taking advantage of this offer on one of the 31 systems, you can call **JED Heating and Cooling** at **724-379-9220** and schedule your free, no obligation survey. Just ask for Gloria and she will schedule a time for Jim to come to your home.

My mistake has created a fantastic opportunity for anyone interested in either an air conditioner or a heater. Just think, you can save all this money but still enjoy the benefits of reducing your utility cost and eliminating all your repair bills, plus you can finance your system with no money down...Please don't forget, this opportunity is only available to 31 homeowners. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jim Delattre, President

P.S. Six months from now, this will probably be the most appreciated offer ever extended to homeowners in the Mon Valley. Every one of the owners will have an almost unfair advantage over their utility companies.

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RECORDS

POLICE LOG

Monessen

■ Robin Womack, 47, 120 Schoonmaker Ave., Monessen, has been issued a delayed citation for disorderly conduct after an alleged incident at 3:30 p.m. Jan. 29 at Monessen High School. School police Officer John Bachinski said Womack allegedly became loud and rude with Dean of Students Marlon Wheeler. Bachinski issued the citation.

■ Bruce Biagini, 45, of 911 Broad Ave., Belle Vernon, was arrested on warrants from Rostraver Township police at 7:56 p.m. Friday in the 300 block of Donner Avenue, Monessen police said.

■ Timothy Naylor, 25, of 901 Henry St., Belle Vernon, was arrested on a Westmoreland County bench warrant at 2:39 a.m. Saturday on Third Street, police said.

■ A 17-year-old Monessen female was charged with harassment after an incident 4:30 p.m. Sunday on Reed Avenue, police said.

■ Christopher Hotchkiss, 24, of 704 Ninth St., Monessen, was charged with disorderly conduct and public drunkenness after an incident 3:15 this morning in the 700 block of Ninth Street, police said.

After Hotchkiss was charged, police also served a warrant against him from Magisterial District Judge Joseph Dalfonso, of Monessen.

■ Ronald Griffey, 27, of 704 Ninth St., Monessen, was charged with simple assault and false identification to law enforcement officers after an incident 2:53 this morning at his residence, police said.

State police, Belle Vernon

■ Jerry Dale Logan, 50, of Finleyville, was charged with criminal mischief, 9:30 p.m. Friday, on Stonebridge Drive, Finleyville, police reported.

■ Deborah Vartabedian, of West Brownsville, reported to police that someone entered her Monroe Avenue, West Brownsville, residence, stealing a camera and ring.

■ Police are investigating an incident of simple assault against Mark Mitchell, 46, of Republic, that took place 5 p.m. Monday on Main Street in Republic. Mitchell had just left the Hub Bar when he was assaulted by a black male, approximately 18 to 21 years of age, police said.

California

■ Michael D. Anderson, 20, of Brownsville was cited for misrepresentation of age to secure alcoholic beverages after an incident that occurred from 1 to 2 a.m. Jan. 25 when he allegedly attempted to use false identification to gain entry into J Coles Tavern, police said.

■ Nicholas Samuel Backo, 20, of Hermitage, was cited at 11:10 p.m. Friday for misrepresentation of age to secure alcoholic beverages and underage drinking, after he allegedly attempted to use false identification to gain entry into J Coles Tavern, police said.

Donora

■ Andrew Cole, 42, of Allenport, was charged with harassment after he allegedly made repeated telephone calls to a Donora woman on Jan. 29, police said.

■ Samuel T. Carter, 52, of 1054 Marelda Ave., Donora, was charged with simple assault at 2:30 a.m. Jan. 31 following an alleged domestic incident, police said.

Charleroi

■ Karen Marie Tatar, 45, of 25 Hazelkirk Road, Carroll Township, was charged with criminal mischief after she allegedly broke a window Dec. 17 at 1026 Fallowfield Ave., police reported.

State police, Greensburg

■ Shawn Burtner Jr., of Jeannette, was charged with criminal mischief 11 p.m. Thursday after he allegedly kicked a truck owned by J.R. Used Cars, Belle Vernon, during an argument on Main Street in Arona Borough, police said.

West Brownsville

■ Fred Nathaniel Neil, 39, of 835 Meadow Ave., California, was cited for DUI 8:40 p.m. Dec. 26 on State Route 88 at Bridge Street, police said.

Rostraver Township

■ Jason Joseph Collins, 29, of 59663 Cherry Hill Road, Beyesville, Ohio, was sent to Westmorland County Prison yesterday on a $15,000 bond in connection with charges stemming from an incident 5:19 a.m. Nov. 2 at McDonalds on Route 201. Police said Collins was charged with kidnapping and interference with custody of children after he allegedly drove off with his child, leaving his ex-wife behind.

Authorities transported Collins from Ohio to Rostraver Township yesterday for a video arraignment, according to police.

■ Robert Joseph Cumer, 23, of 330 Matthews Road, Belle Vernon, was charged with false alarms to public safety, disorderly conduct and criminal mischief after an incident 10:37 p.m. Saturday at Rostraver Apartments, police said.

■ Joshua R. Greene, 23, of 659 Martin Road, Belle Vernon, was charged with harassment after an incident 11:43 a.m. Thursday at his residence, police said.

■ Jeremy D. Theakston, 25, of 1131 Linn Drive, Belle Vernon, was charged with criminal trespassing after an incident 6 p.m. Thursday at Rostraver Apartments Building 1, police said.

■ William Henry Wyland, 26, of 91 Martin Road, Masontown, was charged with two counts of retail theft totaling $229 in merchandise and criminal mischief after an incident 2:52 p.m. Jan. 19 at Wal-Mart, police said.

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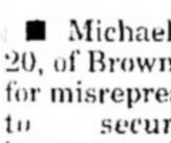

In Memory Of
Cheryle Luciani

In loving memory of our sister, sister-in-law and friend, Cheryle Luciani, who was suddenly taken from us on January 25th, 2008.
Will be sadly missed by sisters Cindy Federer and family, Donna Hatalowich and family & Jeanie Waggett and family, brother William Hawk and family and special friend Billy Shambaugh, and numerous other friends.
Preceeded in death by mother Mariam (Pookie) Comadena and guardians William and Virginia Hawk

DEATH NOTICES

BEETLESTONE — Jerry J. Beetlestone, 36, of Donora, on Sunday, Feb. 3. Kegel Funeral Home, Finleyville.*

HUHN — Ross C. Huhn, 86, of Stockdale, on Sunday, Feb. 3. Ed Melenyzer Funeral Homes Inc., Roscoe.*

KUSMIRAK — Ann Kusmirak, of Donora, on Monday, Feb. 4. Paul Macik Funeral Home, Donora.

RAMSDEN — Francis P. Ramsden, of Lower Burrell, on Monday, Feb. 4. Gigler Funeral Home, Lower Burrell.

THOMAS — Frank M. Thomas, 89, of North Hills, on Sunday, Feb. 3. H.P. Brandt Funeral Home Inc., Ross.*

PREVIOUS DEATHS:
MARTUCCI, Patsy S.*
POST, Francis T.*
*** See death notice**

Frank M. Thomas
North Hills

Frank M. Thomas, 89, died Sunday, Feb. 3, 2008. He was married to Ann (Jurjevic) for 62 years. He was born in Monessen and lived in the North Hills. Frank was a founder of P&T Foodland, which for many years was one of the largest independently-owned supermarkets in the Pittsburgh area. Frank was proud of his Croatian heritage and was known for his love of Croatian music and culture. These interests served him well, as he met Ann at a Croatian club, Javor Hall, on Pittsburgh's North Side. After retiring from the supermarket business, Frank turned his attention to genealogy. Numerous trips to the villages and churches of Croatia led him to uncover records useful in tracing the histories of families whose ancestors had emigrated to America. Much of his research occurred during the years when Croatia was under communist rule. Thus, he often faced the twin obstacles of a government reluctant to grant westerners access to official records and of citizens afraid to disclose family details while living under a dictatorship. Invariably, Frank found creative ways around these obstacles, often to the amazement of his friends in both America and Croatia. Frank was a World War II veteran, serving in North Africa and Italy. He rose to the rank of an Army sergeant based upon his radio communications skills. While on active duty, he would tell his Army buddies that his future wife was busy welding boats at the Dravo Shipyards to bring them all home at the war's end. He married Ana two months after returning home on a Thanksgiving Day. As fate would have it, he also celebrated his last anniversary with her on Thanksgiving this year. Frank, a graduate of Charleroi High School, was a fervent believer in the value of education and was fond of noting that he never missed one day of school. In addition to his wife, Frank is survived by his children, Frank Jr., Patricia, Ronald, Kathleen and Shirley; as well as six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Friends will be received from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday at H.P. BRANDT FUNERAL HOME, 1032 Perry Highway. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 12:30 p.m. Thursday at St. Alexis Church. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Nicholas Croatian Church, 24 Maryland Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15209 or C.P.U. Croatian Scholarship Fund (c/o CFU, 100 Delay Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Jerry J. Beetlestone
Donora

Jerry J. Beetlestone, 36, of Donora, died Sunday, February 3, 2008. He was born August 17, 1971, in McKeesport, a son of Rebecca Caldwell Beam, of Finleyville, and the late Gerald Beetlestone. He attended Clairton High School and was employed as a laborer at Sar Plastics in Donora. Surviving, in addition to his mother, is his close friend, Erin Robbins, with whom he made his home; two children, Zachary and Abigail; two brothers, David Rankin, of Monongahela, and Benjamin Lewis, of Jacksonville, Fla.; his paternal grandmother, Leona Beetlestone, of Clairton; his step-father, Elmer Beam; and several nieces and nephews. Friends will be received from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m., the time of services with the Rev. William Bailey officiating, on Thursday, February 7, at the KEGEL FUNERAL HOME INC., Tim P. Kegel, supervisor, 3560 Washington Ave., in Finleyville. Interment will be private.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Ross C. Huhn
Stockdale

Ross C. Huhn, 86, of Stockdale, died peacefully on Sunday, February 3, 2008, after a lengthy illness. He was born January 26, 1922, in Elco, a son of the late Kurt and Hilda Binkney Huhn Harper. He retired from Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel, Allenport plant after many years in the millwright department. Mr. Huhn was a Pearl Harbor survivor, serving with the U.S. Army from 1941 to 1945 with Battery B, 63rd Field Artillery Battalion, stationed in Hawaii. He received six Bronze Stars and other medals. He was a member of Roscoe American Legion Post 801. Survivors include three children, Janice (Robert) Lindsay, of Grand Ledge, Mich., Carol Robinson, of Stockdale, and Eric Huhn, of King of Prussia; three grandchildren, Stacy (Ken) Barry, Trisha (Michael) Boughton and Kari (Robert) Mazzaferro; and three great-grandchildren, Aaron Boughton, Alekzander Mazzaferro and Tanner Barry. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Alfhild "Kay" Huhn, on August 6, 2007; and two sisters, Gloria Krivacek and Wilma Ross. The family will receive friends from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday in the ED MELENYZER FUNERAL HOMES INC., Roscoe. The funeral home doors will be open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday. American Legion services will be held Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the funeral home. A funeral service will be held Thursday, Feb. 7, at 10:30 a.m. in the funeral home with Pastor Randy Landerman of Grace United Methodist Church officiating. Interment will follow in Mon Valley Memorial Park, Donora.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Patsy S. Martucci
Monessen

Patsy S. Martucci, 74, of Monessen, died Tuesday, February 5, 2008, in Monongahela Valley Hospital Inc. Arrangements are incomplete and will be announced in Wednesday's edition. The DALFONSO-BILLICK FUNERAL HOME INC. and CREMATORY SERVICES, 441 Reed Ave., Monessen, has been entrusted with the arrangements. www.dalfonso-billick.com

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Francis T. Post
Monessen

Francis Thomas "Tom" Post, 61, of Monessen, died Sunday, February 3, 2008, in Mon Valley Hospital. He was born July 7, 1946, in North Charleroi, a son of Francis H. and Caroline Mandarino Post, who survive. He was Catholic by faith and a veteran of the U.S. Army Reserve from 1965 to 1971. Mr. Post enjoyed camping and doing auto repair work. He was an employee of Matt Canestrale Construction Co. as a mechanic. Surviving is his wife, Helen Bridge Post; two sons, Tom Post and Danielle, of Charleroi, and Scott Post and Erin, of Monessen; a grandson, Jacob Post; a sister and two brothers, Patricia Vegso and husband, Dennis, Kevin Post and wife, Toni, and Timothy Post, all of Monessen; three sisters-in-law, Lorraine (Frank) Maiolini, of Monessen, Jean (John Sr.) Robinson, of Penn Hills, and Peg (Ted) Cheloc, of Cleveland, Ohio; four brothers-in-law, Joe (Mary Gene) Bridge, of Belle Vernon, Jack (Rose Ann) Bridge, of Monessen, Donald (Barbara) Bridge and Bob (Marge) Bridge, all of Belle Vernon; and numerous nieces and nephews. Preceding him in death was his sister, Carol Lynn Post; his grandparents, Frank and Lena Ferraro Mandarino and William Post; two brothers-in-law, John Robinson Sr. and Ted Cheloc; and one sister-in-law, Patti Bryner. Friends will be received at the RHOME FUNERAL HOME INC., 1209 Grand Blvd., Monessen, a Golden Rule Funeral Home, from 1 to 3 and 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday. Services will be held in the funeral home chapel on Wednesday, Feb. 6, at 10 a.m. with the Rev. David Nazimek officiating. Interment will follow in Belle Vernon Cemetery.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Mortgage Fraud Task Force formed

Authorities are working on at least 50 investigations.

By JUSTIN VELLUCCI
For The Valley Independent
jvellucci@tribweb.com

Three years ago, Tiffany Lynn Sprouts used her father to help obtain a mortgage loan with documents that exaggerated his financial strength, according to federal court documents released Monday.

Last week, investigators nabbed Marlin Sprouts Jr., 52, a middle school teacher and newly elected Uniontown councilman, as part of what U.S. Attorney Mary Beth Buchanan called a four-person mortgage fraud and property-flipping scheme.

Sprouts – whose daughter pleaded guilty in a scam that cheated financial institutions out of $1 million to $2.5 million – was charged with conspiracy for his role in the scheme, documents show.

"I was being used as a pawn in a much bigger picture," Sprouts said in an interview with the Tribune-Review. "I told the FBI everything I know. I don't have as much as a parking ticket. This was a business deal that went sour."

Sprouts' case was one of several Buchanan cited yesterday as she initiates the Western Pennsylvania Mortgage Fraud Task Force. The task force includes officials from Buchanan's office, the FBI, Internal Revenue Service, state Attorney General's Office and state Department of Banking.

"Owning a home has long been part of the American dream," Buchanan said in a statement. "We are aggressively pursuing anyone who illegally stands in the way of this dream."

The 24 people charged for scams last week represent $13 million in mortgage fraud, Buchanan said. Authorities are working on at least 50 investigations, she said.

Buchanan couldn't say how much mortgage fraud occurs each year in Western Pennsylvania. Officials say scams are not possible without brokers, appraisers and, sometimes, those seeking loans or buying a home.

Seeking "stated income" on loan applications, a measure often for the self-employed, has fallen prey to mortgage schemers, said David Bleicken, director of the state Department of Banking's Bureau of Licensing, Investigation and Consumer Services.

"That is a huge part of the fraud problem," Bleicken said.

Newly released court documents illustrate the way some people manipulated the system.

In some cases, mortgage company employees submitted false or fraudulent documents to net inflated loans. In others, loan applicants themselves submitted the bogus information.

"Executing sales on foreclosed properties is not a pleasant or easy task, but it is an obligation the sheriff's office is bound to fulfill," Allegheny County Sheriff William P. Mullen said.

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We wish to thank the many thoughtful friends and neighbors who extended us kindness in our recent bereavement after the death of **John Bruce Everly**. The ministrations of the Rev. Glenn Hurley, masses, expressions of sympathy, spiritual comfort, as well as those who assisted at the funeral will be remembered with gratitude.
A special thank you to Mrs. Black for the beautiful song she sang.

The Balogh Family

N. Charleroi police issue monthly report

North Charleroi police issued the following report for the month of December:

Miscellaneous calls, nine; domestics, four; alarms, three; disabled vehicles, four; thefts, one; animal complaints, two; accidents, three; assists, seven; parking tickets, eight; and traffic citations, eight.

Police patrolled 536 total miles during the month.

VALLEY GRAPEVINE

Fish fry set at Calvary U.P.

Calvary United Presbyterian Church, Eighth and Thompson, Donora, will host a fish fry 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday and each Friday through Lent, including Good Friday. The menu will include baked and fried fish, french fries, macaroni and cheese, halushki. For takeouts, call (724) 379-8285.

Monessen School Board to meet

There will be a public information meeting of the Monessen School Board 7:30 p.m. today in the elementary center board room.

NEWS

TODAY IN HISTORY

FEBRUARY 5

Today is Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 5, the 36th day of 2008. There are 330 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight

On Feb. 5, 1631, the co-founder of Rhode Island, Roger Williams, and his wife, Mary, arrived in Boston from England.

On this date:

■ In 1783, Sweden recognized the independence of the United States.

■ In 1811, George, Prince of Wales, was named the Prince Regent due to the insanity of his father, Britain's King George III.

■ In 1887, Verdi's opera "Otello" premiered at La Scala.

■ In 1897, the Indiana House of Representatives passed, 67-0, a measure redefining the method for determining the area of a circle, which included altering the value of pi. (The bill died in the Indiana Senate.)

■ In 1917, Congress passed, over President Woodrow Wilson's veto, an immigration act severely curtailing the influx of Asians.

■ In 1917, Mexico's constitution was adopted.

■ In 1937, President Franklin Roosevelt proposed increasing the number of justices on the U.S. Supreme Court; critics accused Roosevelt of attempting to "pack" the high court.

■ In 1983, former Nazi Gestapo official Klaus Barbie, expelled from Bolivia, was brought to Lyon, France, to stand trial. (He was convicted and sentenced to life in prison — he died in 1991.)

■ In 1988, the Arizona House impeached Gov. Evan Mecham, setting the stage for his trial in the state Senate, where he was convicted of obstructing justice and misusing funds.

■ **Ten years ago**: Democratic fund-raiser Yah Lin "Charlie" Trie pleaded not guilty in Washington to charges he had raised illegal donations to buy influence in high places. (Trie pleaded guilty in May 1999 to a felony count and a misdemeanor and was sentenced later that year to four months of home detention and three years' probation.)

■ **Five years ago**: Secretary of State Colin Powell urged the U.N. Security Council to move against Saddam Hussein, saying Iraq had failed to disarm, was harboring terrorists and was hiding behind a "web of lies."

■ **One year ago**: President Bush unveiled a $2.9 trillion budget, which proposed a big spending increase for the Pentagon while pinching domestic programs.

■ **Today's Birthdays**: Country singer Claude King is 85. The Rev. Andrew M. Greeley is 80. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Hank Aaron is 74. Actor Stuart Damon is 71. Financial writer Jane Bryant Quinn is 69. Television producer-writer Stephen J. Cannell is 67. Actor David Selby is 67. Singer-songwriter Barrett Strong is 67. Football Hall-of-Famer Roger Staubach is 66. Singer Cory Wells (Three Dog Night) is 66. Movie director Michael Mann is 65. Rock singer Al Kooper is 64. Actress Charlotte Rampling is 62. Actress Barbara Hershey is 60. Actor Christopher Guest is 60. Actor Tom Wilkinson is 59. Actor-comedian Tim Meadows is 47. Actress Jennifer Jason Leigh is 46. Actress Laura Linney is 44. Rock musician Duff McKagan (Velvet Revolver) is 44. Rock singer Chris Barron (Spin Doctors) is 40. Singer Bobby Brown is 39. Country singer Sara Evans is 37. Actor Jeremy Sumpter is 19.

Dems, some Republicans critical of Bush budget

It's the first-ever $3 trillion federal budget proposal.

By JIM ABRAMS
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Democrats, already looking ahead to the next White House occupant, quickly relegated President Bush's final budget to the ash bin of history, saying his proposals to rein in spending on programs are untenable and won't happen.

Even the top Republican on the Senate Budget Committee, Sen. Judd Gregg of New Hampshire, invoked a note of reality. "Let's face it. This budget is done with the understanding that nobody's going to be taking a long, hard look at it."

Nonetheless, Bush dispatched his budget director and Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson to Capitol Hill on Tuesday to defend the first-ever $3 trillion federal budget proposal he unveiled a day earlier.

White House Budget Director Jim Nussle urged congressional Democrats to adopt the same cooperative spirit that produced a quick House agreement on a $160 billion economic stimulus package of tax rebates and business tax cuts now being debated in the Senate.

Democrats, who now control both the House and Senate, were emphatic that the Bush plan won't be the model as they put together their own budget proposals over the coming weeks.

"We will be going our way and they will be going their way and we won't likely converge," House Budget Committee Chairman John Spratt, D-S.C., said.

"The only real significance of the president's budget is to serve as a legacy of his disastrous fiscal management over the last seven years," said Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York, one of two Senate Democrats competing for their party's presidential nomination this year.

Bush's budget for fiscal year 2009 beginning Oct. 1 proposes spending just below $3.1 trillion. Last year, he proposed $2.9 trillion for the current budget year, but he now estimates that spending in fiscal 2008 will also exceed $3 trillion once all the costs of the continuing war in Iraq are included.

Excluding the war, Bush is proposing an 8 percent increase in the Pentagon's base budget, to $515.4 billion, next year. Overall defense spending would decline from $670.5 billion this year to $588.3 billion in Bush's 2009 budget. The request includes just $70 billion in initial war costs, a figure certain to be exceeded when Bush leaves office.

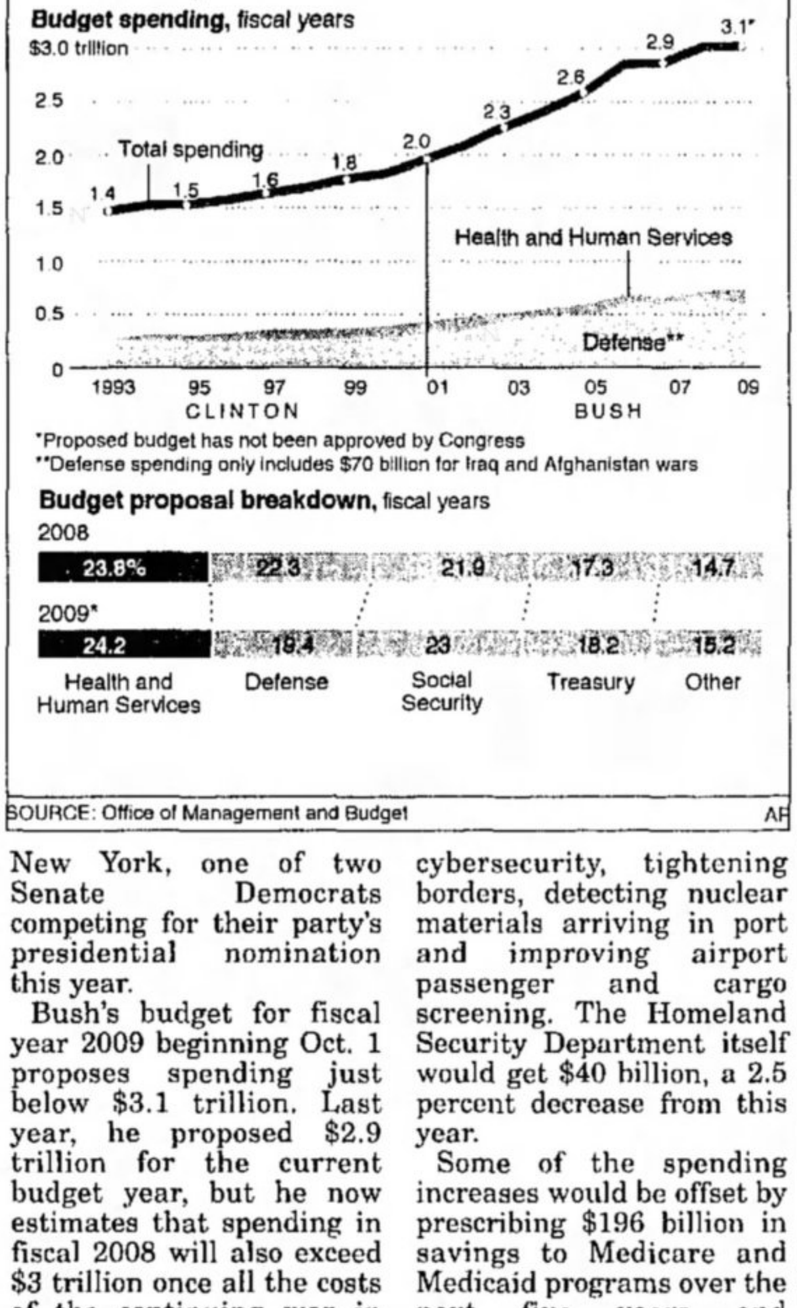
Bush also wants to boost homeland security spending by almost $4 billion, with big increases devoted to cybersecurity, tightening borders, detecting nuclear materials arriving in port and improving airport passenger and cargo screening. The Homeland Security Department itself would get $40 billion, a 2.5 percent decrease from this year.

Some of the spending increases would be offset by prescribing $196 billion in savings to Medicare and Medicaid programs over the next five years and reducing or eliminating 151 programs, saving $18 billion.

But slowing spending in those programs also reflects Bush's determination to preserve his 2001 and 2003 tax cuts after he's gone. Many of those tax cuts expire in 2010, and the cost of writing them into permanent law would be $635 billion over five years.

Budget spending could double

During President Bush s two terms, spending has increased for most federal agencies.



SOURCE: Office of Management and Budget AP

THE WORLD BRIEFLY

Americans overseas head to the polls

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Americans living overseas started lining up in hotels and coffee shops today to vote for Democratic candidates in the 2008 U.S. presidential elections, while others — for the first time ever — cast ballots online.

But some voting experts expressed fears that Internet ballots were vulnerable to tampering, computer hacking and could not be authenticated or recounted.

Indonesia, where candidate Barack Obama once lived as a child, kicked off the Super Tuesday campaign at the stroke of midnight. More than a hundred people turned out at the J.W. Marriott Hotel in the normally bustling capital, saying America needed to restore its reputation across the globe.

"Living overseas, I think that's the most important thing," said Peter Gardiner as he waited in line with his family. "We've had eight years of an administration that has basically destroyed America's image."

While voting was taking place in more than 20 U.S. states today, the busiest day in the U.S. primary election season, overseas balloting lasts for a week.

Thousands flee Chad's capital

N'DJAMENA, Chad (AP) — Rebels seeking to oust Chad's president kept to the fringes of the capital today amid sporadic gunfire, an exodus of hundreds of thousands, and hopes that incoming mediators could resolve the bloody latest chapter in the oil-rich African country's long-standing conflict.

A Chadian official declared the fighting a "direct war" with the Sudanese president — repeating claims that Sudan is backing the rebels, while a rebel chief insisted that they were ready to launch a new offensive into the capital where they battled army forces Saturday before drawing back Sunday.

The death toll was not known, but more than 1,000 were reported wounded, and nearly half of the 700,000 residents of the capital were said to have fled. Bodies lay on the streets of N'Djamena, and the hulks of burned out tanks and other vehicles stood abandoned.

The fighting in Chad has threatened to further destabilize an already violent swath of Africa that borders Sudan's war-ravaged Darfur region.

Secret footage admissible in court

ORANJESTAD, Aruba (AP) — A hidden-camera interview with a Dutch student saying missing teenager Natalee Holloway was dead and that he had a friend dump her body at sea is admissible in court, the chief Aruban prosecutor said.

The courts in Aruba will likely accept the tape as evidence because it was recorded by a private citizen without any influence by authorities, Chief Prosecutor Hans Mos told reporters Monday.

"I take it very seriously," Mos said of the video.

The tape, which was first broadcast Sunday on Dutch television, has appeared to spur the investigation: Mos said authorities in the Netherlands searched two homes Monday where Joran Van der Sloot has lived while attending college there.

A judge in Aruba denied a prosecution request to detain Van der Sloot based on the new information. Mos said they will file an appeal today.

'PENNSYLVANIA CASH 5'

One player hits 'Cash 5' jackpot

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — One player matched all five winning numbers drawn in Monday's "Pennsylvania Cash 5" game and will collect a jackpot worth $125,000.

Lottery officials said 123 players matched four numbers and won $146 each; 3,873 players matched three numbers and won $7.50 each; and 43,329 players matched two numbers and won $1 each.

The Valley Independent LOTTERY RESULTS

PENNSYLVANIA DAILY NUMBERS — MONDAY, FEB. 4

DAY PICK 3:	8-2-4
NIGHT PICK 3:	3-6-6
DAY PICK BIG 4:	9-2-2-9
NIGHT PICK BIG 4:	4-1-0-2
TREASURE HUNT:	1-12-20-25-26
MIX & MATCH:	9-10-19-16-12
CASH 5:	2-11-18-27-33

OHIO DAILY NUMBERS — MONDAY, FEB. 4

DAY PICK 3:	9-6-6
NIGHT PICK 3:	7-5-4
DAY PICK 4:	9-1-7-1
NIGHT PICK 4:	5-8-8-3
ROLLING CASH 5:	4-15-21-35-38

WEST VIRGINIA DAILY NUMBERS — MONDAY, FEB. 4

DAILY 3:	6-8-8
DAILY 4:	8-3-9-5
CASH 25:	4-6-11-13-18-20

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of winning numbers and prize payouts. In the event of a discrepancy, the official and certified files maintained by the Pennsylvania Lottery's Security Office shall prevail.

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OUR OPINION

End political abuse in nursing homes

SENIOR CITIZENS are among the most active voting blocs in American politics, but many elderly people are having that right taken away.

A hearing was held last week before the U.S. Senate's Special Committee on Aging to address election problems in nursing homes. Sens. Herb Kohl, D-Wis., and Diane Feinstein, D-Calif., plan to petition the U.S. Election Assistance Commission to create nationwide voting guidelines for state election officials and nursing home staffs.

Among those testifying at the hearing was Jason Karlawish, a professor of medicine and medical ethics at the University of Pennsylvania. In the process of election research he conducted in Philadelphia and Virginia, Karlawish discovered that many residents of long-term care facilities had no way to vote. He said voting in some facilities was controlled by staff, not election officials.

"Elderly voters who live in long-term care settings, are really suffering doubly," he said. "First, people decided whether they can vote, and second, people steal their votes."

Karlawish noted that many residents rely on absentee ballots, which carry a high risk for fraud, and noted that mobile polls could help relieve the problem.

Our state is familiar with absentee ballot abuse. Ten years ago, U.S. Rep. Austin Murphy was implicated in a high-profile scandal that led to him being convicted of absentee ballot fraud involving a nursing home.

Senior citizens are an important — and expanding — group of voters, and many states with high elderly populations, such as Pennsylvania and Florida, are considered "swing states," close enough to go to either party in a typical election. So it is important that nursing home ballots be kept free from fraud.

Nursing home residents deserve better than to be treated as political pawns. We support Kohl and Feinstein's effort to purify the election process and help our elderly citizens keep their political voice.

ANOTHER VIEW

Fort Worth (Texas) Star-Telegram, on debt and death in the military:

The fact that federal law requires the secretary of veterans affairs to contact the family of a soldier killed in combat to collect an outstanding VA debt is incomprehensible to most Americans. ...

As Title 38 of the U.S. Code stands today, if a member of the armed forces dies — the specifics of the cause of death don't matter — and owes money to the VA, the secretary is required to contact the family for repayment.

Twenty-two families have been asked to pay mostly GI bill education debt from the estates of loved ones who died in combat or of a service-connected injury incurred in a combat zone.

Rightfully outraged by this development, Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas last week filed the Combat Veterans Debt Elimination Act to remove the provision that requires the VA to seek collection of unpaid debt from the families of soldiers who die from combat-related injuries. Hutchison, who has been joined by Sen. John Cornyn as a co-sponsor, is asking to make the law retroactive to Sept. 11, 2001. ...

Regardless of one's support for or opposition to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, it's hard to fathom any American thinking it's appropriate to add to the burdens of an already grieving family by asking for reimbursement on a VA loan.

Mark them "Paid in full."

How to reach us

The Valley Independent welcomes the input of our readers. Letters, e-mails and faxes must be signed and should include an address and daytime telephone number so the content of the message can be verified. (Phone numbers will not be published.)

Send your comments:

— By mail to Your Opinion, The Valley Independent, Eastgate 19, Monessen, Pa. 15062.

— By e-mail to valleyletters@tribweb.com

— By fax to (724) 684-2603.

All messages are subject to editing for clarification, brevity and libel. Messages should be kept to 300 words. (No poetry, please.)

While letters usually are published in order of submission, those concerning timely local issues are given priority.

Bush says U.S. stronger since he took office

Morton **KONDRACKE**

Despite dismal national and international poll ratings, a hostile Congress and a sagging economy, President Bush enters his last year in office expressing total confidence that he's been doing the right things.

He told me in an Oval Office interview that "absolutely, we are stronger" as a nation than when he took office and that, even in areas where he failed to get what he wanted — as in Social Security and immigration reform — his ideas eventually will prevail.

He said his biggest disappointment as president was his inability to be a "uniter not a divider," and he agreed that politics is "polarized." On the other hand, he was adamant that he would never compromise on some of the principles — such as cutting taxes and aggressively promoting democracy — that have made him so polarizing.

"It's one thing to compromise on pieces of legislation to get something done," he said. "It's another to compromise on principle — which I have refused to do. People say, 'Oh, you must be a uniter by compromising your beliefs.'

"There are certain things on which I will not compromise. I don't see how you can be president if you don't stand strong on your principles. There's too much incoming.

"There's too many complicated decisions, too much flattery, too much criticism, too many polls, too many focus groups. And the president has to say: 'Here is the ground on which I stand.'"

Although even top White House aides acknowledged that Bush's last State of the Union address contained no bold new initiatives, Bush said, "I did call on Congress to do some pretty substantial things, if you think about it," including a doubling of his global HIV/AIDS initiative, the economic stimulus package and a $300 million "Pell Grant for Kids" to save inner-city parochial schools as an alternative to failing public schools.

He didn't say so, but it's worth noting that when Bush has come up with big initiatives — Social Security and immigration reform, an entitlement commission and a tax deduction to expand health-insurance coverage — they've been rejected by Congress. The school voucher proposal is being rejected, too.

White House aides say they think Bush will succeed this year in getting the stimulus package, an extension of the FISA terrorist wiretap program, veterans health reforms and pending free-trade agreements.

Bush told me that when he delivered his State of the Union speech Monday night, "I found the atmosphere in the hall to be very amenable. I didn't feel any tension, like we've had in the past."

He said he thought that was due to bipartisan steps being taken to bolster the economy and "Iraq has improved to the point, it felt like to me, there was a lot of tension out of the air." It may have also been due to Democratic relief that Bush will be gone in less than a year.

I asked him whether he agreed with GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney and Democratic Sen. Barack Obama that Washington is "broken" and so polarized that it can't solve big problems facing the country. I agree with them.

But Bush doesn't. "If I were running for president, I would be for change. As a matter of fact, every candidate has got to figure out a way to be for change. I campaigned for change every time I ran, except for twice: in 1998, my re-election for governor, and 2004, my re-election for president," he joked.

"Can Washington function better? Of course it can," he said. But he disputed that big problems couldn't be solved because of partisanship. "We have reformed education, we have reformed Medicare, we have cut taxes."

And, he said, eventually Social Security will be reformed along with the immigration system — by an "evolutionary" process, and his way.

As time goes on, he said, younger people accustomed to 401(k)-defined contribution programs will demand reform replacing current defined benefits, and minorities will want an opportunity to accumulate assets — all arguing for his private accounts proposal.

"One thing history will be able to say is that we finally had a president who stood up in front of the nation more than one time and said, 'here is a solution for Social Security,'" Bush said. Now he wants Congress to come up with one.

Similarly on immigration, he predicted that "logic will prevail over time, once the emotion gets out of the issue," especially as employers pressure legislators for workers and for tamper-proof residency documents.

When I asked him whether he thought America was a stronger country than when he arrived in office — in view of a weakened dollar, increased debt, rising oil prices and dependency and international polls showing a steep decline in America's reputation — he batted the question back.

"We're stronger because our military is stronger ... and becoming more modern. We're stronger because we recognize the threats of the 21st century and are dealing with them.

"We're stronger because we've added jobs. More Americans are working. ... Real wages are up. ... We're still a flexible economy with a strong entrepreneurial spirit. He have more debt, but we've also got more assets. We're stronger because America is in the lead, using its influence."

He utterly dismissed international opinion polls showing declining approval of the United States. "When it comes to, where do you want to live, many people (say), 'I'd like to live in the United States.'"

He said one of the principles he would never compromise on was his conviction that people all over the world deserve democracy. But, when I asked him whether he was compromising in Pakistan, permitting President Pervez Musharraf to rig elections, he denied it.

"I have no evidence that he's going to rig elections. Quite the contrary, he has told me that he wants free elections," Bush said. But he added that "democracies evolve over time, based upon their histories and traditions.

"We can't expect that every nation, all of a sudden, is going to be a flourishing democracy the way we want it to be," he said, and also expressed confidence that Musharraf is doing all he can to combat terrorism.

When I asked him about a New York Times report that Musharraf had rebuffed a direct request from top U.S. intelligence officials to allow CIA operatives to pursue Al Qaeda and Taliban targets in Pakistan's tribal area, Bush said, "I wouldn't necessarily believe everything you read there."

The bottom line on Bush is that he seems utterly convinced in the rightness of what he's been doing these seven years. "We must be confident in what we stand for and not feel like we have to subsume our interests, our beliefs, in order to reach a kind of unanimity in the world," he said.

"And that also applies at home. So, people say, 'You can unify.' But I will not unify if I have to compromise my beliefs."

It can't be much more stark and clear than that. The Great Polarizer will not compromise — and he won't unify, either, unless, like Harry Truman, Ronald Reagan and his hero, Abraham Lincoln, he's vindicated by history.

Perzel's plan unconscionable

To the Editor:

In Monday's *Valley Independent* the headline story was subtitled "House Majority Leader Bill DeWeese slams Republican plan to cut property taxes for low- to middle-income seniors."

What a half truth this subtitle is! I thought news belonged in a newspaper's headline, not partisan political propaganda. Put that on the editorial page.

ANOTHER VIEW

Or is *The Valley Independent* a co-conspirator to this underhanded move by House Republicans to turn seniors against the Democrats by lying to them? As was half-heartedly admitted to in this headline article, the intent of slots revenue was to reduce all taxpayers' property tax burdens; and Republican Rep. John Perzel's plan — slammed by Bill DeWeese — would reduce only the property taxes of seniors making $40,000 a year or less. I've got great respect for seniors. But what makes a senior making $40,000 or less more deserving of property tax reduction than say a 30-something single mother making the same amount, or anyone else?

Rep. Perzel's plan is discriminatory and un-American! It's pure, blatant political trickery. It's not helpful toward achieving fair property tax reduction legislation. If *The Valley Independent* chose to propagandize in its headline that's the spin that it should have put on Perzel's move.

James E. Manderino
Monessen

Test to investigate value of electronic health records

Doctors reluctant to embrace digital trend.

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON — Just like with do-it-yourself taxes, a growing software industry lets patients create their own "personal health records." No more answering 10-page questionnaires every time you visit a new doctor — just hit the print button before leaving home to arrive armed with your life's medical history.

Doctors have been slow to switch from error-prone paper records to digital ones, so the trend promises to empower patients to take matters into their own computers.

But can using personal health records, or PHRs, actually make you healthier? The government is spending millions on the first studies to find out — and if so, the findings would give doctors a big push to get on board.

The idea: Put records from every health encounter in one patient-controlled spot, such as a password-protected Internet site. Then if you travel, change doctors, or a disaster destroys paper charts — like when Hurricane Katrina flooded doctors' offices — you'll always have on hand information that could prove crucial.

But the quality and scope of PHR programs varies widely, and a good one is supposed to be more than a static repository.

Say someone with hypertension starts listing morning blood pressure in a PHR that automatically creates a graph. It shows a pattern of spikes that a one-time check in the doctor's office never would catch, prompting a call for help.

More sophisticated programs allow e-mails for prescription refills, automatic downloads of lab-test results, even blood pressure monitors that plug into the computer to directly record measurements.

"As patients, we don't think of ourselves as the person driving the health care," says Dr. Peggy Wagner of the Medical College of Georgia, who is leading one of the studies. PHRs may be "changing what it means to be a patient."

"People want all their information at their fingertips," adds Dr. Julie Gerberding, head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

She says PHRs are evolving much as online financial tools for tax preparation did, eventually giving people more control and understanding of complicated data

Yet just having a PHR isn't automatically better than a family keeping good paper records.

"It's not about a PHR in every pot. It's about PHRs that make a difference," says Dr. Jon White, health technology chief for the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

So his agency is funding four unique projects around the country — in California, Georgia, Iowa and Virginia — to compare whether patients randomly assigned to use strong PHRs fare better than their counterparts who don't go digital. The studies will measure such things as improvement of chronic diseases, use of cancer screenings and immunizations, and proper medication use.

The Medical College of Georgia, for example, will track 720 patients with high blood pressure. Half will get standard care. Half will be taught to use a PHR that links directly to the health system's own records plus allowing patients to record daily blood pressure, diet and other lifestyle factors and e-mail doctors.

Associated Press

After checking his blood pressure, pulse and weight, Floyd Moore sends the information to his medical team via computer in Augusta, Ga.

Floyd Moore, 60, of Augusta, Ga., is pilot-testing the program. He has congestive heart failure, and uses the PHR daily to record both his blood pressure and fluctuations in weight that could signal dangerous fluid retention.

But he's finding more valuable the PHR's warnings about interactions between various prescription and over-the-counter drugs. Moore also has a kidney condition and arthritis, and says his different doctors' paper records seldom have his slew of medications completely up to date.

"It's always something that's changed," says Moore, who prints his PHR medication record and brings it to every appointment.

President Bush says all Americans should have electronic health records by 2014. That focus has been on converting patients' formal charts — the records controlled by hospitals and doctors — from paper to digital, to reduce paperwork costs and medical errors.

While large hospital and insurance networks are making the switch, few private doctors have. And even then, software differences mean one doctor's system can't always share information with another's.

Hence the patient-driven trend. More than 100 vendors, from insurers to free Web sites, offer individuals or families the option of creating PHRs — records that they control.

The programs range from very simple electronic diaries to more comprehensive programs that link directly with doctors or hospitals for direct downloading of formal e-charts.

It's an evolution still in early stages, and no one yet knows what features will prove most valuable to patients, cautions Stephen Downs of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. His nonprofit agency has numerous projects under way to design more user-friendly PHRs.

"Diet and sleep and pain symptoms. When you actually took your medications. Did you take them?" lists Downs. "This information is really quite important" but many PHRs until now have "given short shrift to that."

Miss. bill would ban obese from restaurants

By EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS
Associated Press Writer

JACKSON, Miss. — A state lawmaker wants to ban restaurants from serving food to obese customers — but please, don't be offended.

He says he never even expected his plan to become law.

"I was trying to shed a little light on the number one problem in Mississippi," said Republican Rep. John Read of Gautier, who acknowledges that at 5-foot-11 and 230 pounds, he'd probably have a tough time under his own bill.

More than 30 percent of adults in Mississippi are considered to be obese, according to a 2007 study by the Trust for America's Health, a research group that focuses on disease prevention.

The state House Public Health Committee chairman, Democrat Steve Holland of Plantersville, said he is going to "shred" the bill.

"It is too oppressive for government to require a restaurant owner to police another human being from their own indiscretions," Holland said Monday.

The bill had no specifics about how obesity would be defined, or how restaurants were supposed to determine if a customer was obese.

Jefferson Regional plans events for Heart Month

Cardiovascular disease, including stroke, is the No. 1 cause of death in the U.S., according to the American Heart Association. To join the battle against cardiovascular disease, Congress has required the President since 1963 to proclaim February as American Heart Month.

Jefferson Regional Medical Center will celebrate with two special events at the Jefferson Regional Wellness Center, 712 Clairton Blvd. (Route 51) in Pleasant Hills.

A Healthy Heart Wellness Fair will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. Feb. 19 , and a Taste of Ornish Open House is set for 6 to 8 p.m. Feb. 26.

Both events are free and open to the public. Free parking is available.

The free Healthy Heart Wellness Fair on Feb. 19 will include screenings for blood pressure, cholesterol, risk fact analysis, Body Mass Index and pulse oximetry.

There also will be food sampling, an exercise demonstration, "ask the pharmacist" and "meet the exercise specialist" sessions, nutritional evaluation, strength training and stress management demonstrations and wellness program information.

Medical professionals, including registered nurses, a registered dietician, an exercise physiologist, pharmacist and stress management specialist, will be available to talk with Wellness Fair participants.

There will be giveaways; pre-registration is preferred by calling Community Programs at (412) 469-7100.

The Taste of Ornish Open House will feature a cooking demonstration and Ornish-friendly food samples, a stress management demonstration, "meet the dietitian" and "ask the doctors" session, Ornish program information and success stories from past and current participants in the Dean Ornish program.

The Dr. Dean Ornish Program for Reversing Heart Disease is a comprehensive lifestyle modification program designed to assist participants in the management of heart disease by addressing key risk factors associated with its onset and progression.

Through healthy lifestyle modification, the Ornish Program teaches participants how to improve their health and well being to live longer and healthier.

Space for the Taste of Ornish Open House is limited. Anyone planning to attend must call Community Programs at (412) 469-7100 to register.

MVH announces weekly schedule

Monongahela Valley Hospital will offer the following programs next week:

Feb. 12 - RSDS Support Group, 11 a.m., Anthony M. Education Conference Center. The Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome Support Group is free and open to all persons with RSDS or related illnesses. For more information, call (724) 929-9492.

Feb. 13 - Prostate Cancer Support Group, 6 p.m., education conference center. The Prostate Cancer Support Group is free and open to all persons with prostate cancer and their families. The discussion will be lead by Andrew J. Zahalsky, M.D. and Lori Lasich, CRNP, from the MVH Regional Cancer Center. For more information, call (724) 292-9404.

Feb. 14 - Diabetes Support Group, 6:30 p.m., education conference center. Free and open to all diabetics and their families, this group meets most months. This month's topic will be "The ABCs of Diabetes". For more information, call (724) 258-1148.

Feb. 15 - Red Cross Blood Drive, noon to 6 p.m., education conference center. American Red Cross, in cooperation with Monongahela Valley Hospital, will sponsor a blood drive on the hospital campus. For more information, call (724) 258-1234.

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The new goLITE® light box is the most advanced light therapy device. It utilizes exclusive BLUEWAVE® technology, developed with a grant from the National Institutes of Health, that offers the optimal bandwidth of blue light, without harmful UV rays. So it's safe to use and easy on your eyes.

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And since it's so compact (only 6" square), you can take it anywhere, anytime to boost energy levels and improve your mood.

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The goLITE® light box is changing the lives of people everywhere. Karen M. of Wheaton, IL says she's "happier at work, sleeping better at night and feeling more energetic."

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Lee C. of Tacoma, WA adds "My goLITE® has changed my life so remarkably for the better. I can't believe how much more energy I have even in the darkest days of winter."

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1130028

TV LISTINGS

Readers sound off on what's wrong with our world

Dear ABBY

DEAR READERS: In late October, I printed a letter from "Tab in Swansea, Ill.," who asked what I perceive to be the main problem in society today. I responded that, as my column reflects, there is more than one. Then I asked what you, my readers, think is society's greatest problem — and the roof fell in! Your response was enormous, and I wish I could share all of it, but space does not permit. Today and tomorrow I'll print a sample:

DEAR ABBY: The main problem in our society today is lack of personal responsibility — from the deadbeat dad to the CEOs of major companies manipulating financial statements for personal benefit. Our society will prosper only if we all take responsibility for our actions. — **MARK IN WEST ALLIS, WIS.**

DEAR ABBY: It's greed! The unwillingness to consider how our behavior affects others. We have become so obsessed with material things and a "what's in it for me" mentality that we have forgotten to live by the Golden Rule. — **JUDY IN WICHITA, KAN.**

DEAR ABBY: Society's greatest problem is intolerance. It breeds all the other problems. We're intolerant of other people's views, religions, looks, sexual orientation, languages, mode of dress, career choice, whether to parent — or not. We're in the business of NOT minding our own business. — **MARILYN IN THE GARDEN STATE**

DEAR ABBY: It's apathy ... but, who cares? — **MALCOLM IN MIAMI**

DEAR ABBY: It's the breakdown of the nuclear family and lack of good parenting.

I didn't even know divorce existed when I was growing up.

I now work in a high school and see dozens of kids in trouble each day because they don't have proper role models at home.

We see girls pregnant beginning at age 14, and the parents just shrug it off. Rude, violent kids were the exception when I was young. Kids today are not loved and watched over. If parents were like they used to be, this would be a safer, saner place. — **MARY IN LAS VEGAS**

DEAR ABBY: Technology has outstripped our growth as human beings.

People's basic nature hasn't changed much in the last few thousand years — what we want, need, fear and hate are pretty much the same as they have always been.

But in the last 100 years or so, we have gained global abilities.

We've created the technology to destroy our planet but have not developed the corresponding maturity — either as individuals or societies — to handle the abilities we've developed. — **NAOMI IN BERGENFIELD, N.J.**

DEAR ABBY: It's the personal isolation of people today. Business people will not answer their telephones and speak directly with customers. Individuals won't answer their phones at home, but do respond to e-mail and text messages.

A generation has been schooled to keep a cell phone glued to their ears at all times instead of communicating face-to-face.

If Darwin was right, future generations will no longer require a tongue because we will no longer converse.

Instead, we'll grow extra fingers with which to type and text. — **RON C., SOULSBYVILLE, CALIF.**

DEAR ABBY: The answer to your question is fairly simple.

There's no respect, no discipline, no courtesy and no consideration for others.

Is my opinion politically correct?

No.

Am I right on the money?

Yes!

Thank you, Dr. Spock.

(PC obviously is not my strong suit.) — **GARY IN ROCKWALL, TEXAS**

DEAR READERS: Hang on ... there's more tomorrow.

(Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.)

TUESDAY EVENING — FEB. 5, 2008

	6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	11PM	11:30	12AM	12:30	1AM	1:30	2AM	2:30
CBS (2) KDKA (7) WTRF (10) WTAJ	News (N)	(7) (10) CBS Evening News With Katie Couric (N)	(2) CBS Evening News-Couric/ (7) Entertainment/ (10) Inside	(2) The Insider (N)/ (7) Inside Edition/ (10) Two and a Half Men	NCIS "Chimera" The team investigates a death aboard a top-secret naval research ship in the ocean.		Super Tuesday Primary Coverage				News (N)	Late Show With David Letterman Matthew McConaughey; Gary Mule Deer; Sheryl Crow. (N)		The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson Amy Ryan; Terry Crews; Sebastian Maniscalco. (N)		(2) Extra (N)/ (7) The Insider (N)/ (10) Everybody Loves Raymond "Slave"	(2) (10) Paid/ (7) That '70s Show The son of Red's Navy buddy.	(2) Paid/ (7) (10) CBS Up to the Minute (N)
ABC (4) WTAE (23) WATM	(4) News (N)/ (23) The Insider (N)	ABC's World News With Charles Gibson (N)	(4) Inside Edition/ (23) Jeopardy! (N)	(4) Entertainment Tonight/ (23) Wheel of Fortune	Showdown: Coast to Coast Presidential primaries.						(4) Ch. 4 Action News at 11 (N)/ (23) News (N)	Showdown: Coast to Coast		Jimmy Kimmel Live		(4) Oprah Winfrey/ (23) Paid	(23) Paid	(4) Paid/ (23) Jerry Springer (N)	(4) Ch. 4 Action News at 11
NBC (6) WJAC (9) WTOV (11) WPXI	News (N)	NBC Nightly News (N)	(6) Entertainment Tonight (N)/ (9) (11) Jeopardy! (N)	(6) Who Wants to Be a Millionaire (N)/ (9) (11) Wheel of Fortune (N)	The Biggest Loser: Couples The teams compete in a cook-off challenge. (N)				Super Tuesday Special Coverage and analysis of the Super Tuesday primary results.		News (N)	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno (N)		Late Night With Conan O'Brien (N)		Last Call With Carson Daly	Poker After Dark Alan "Boston" Dvorkis; Antonio Esfandiari; Mike Sexton; Mike Matusow; Jamie Gold; Paul Wasicka.	
FOX (8) WWCP (53) WPGH	(8) The Simpsons/ (53) Two and a Half Men	(8) That '70s Show/ (53) Frasier	(8) The Simpsons/ (53) Two and a Half Men	Seinfeld Jerry dates Miss Rhode Island.	American Idol Audition in Atlanta. (N)		House "Don't Ever Change" House and the team treat a woman who collapsed at her wedding. (N)		(8) News (N)/ (53) Channel 11 News on FOX 53 at 10	(8) Seinfeld Jerry loses car in parking garage.	(8) The King of Queens/ (53) Seinfeld	(8) Frasier/ (53) Scrubs	(8) ★★ Raw Deal (1986)/ (53) Scrubs "My Drug Buddy"	(53) Paid	(53) Paid	(53) Paid	(8) Paid/ (53) Sex and the City	(8) Paid/ (53) Cheaters
(13) WQED	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)		Nightly Business Report	OnQ Magazine	Nova "The Mummy Who Would Be King"		Frontline "A Dangerous Business Revisited"		Super Tuesday Coverage of the Super Tuesday primaries.					Charlie Rose (N)		Antiques Roadshow "Orlando, Florida"		American Experience "Grand Central"
(19) WPCW	The People's Court (N)		Everybody-Raymond	Everybody-Raymond	Reaper "What About Blob?"		One Tree Hill "Don't Dream It's Over" (N)		The 10 O'Clock News	The Nightly Sports Call	Malcolm in the Middle	According to Jim	That '70s Show	King of the Hill	South Park "Marjorine"	Paid	Paid	Paid
(22) WPMY	The Simpsons	Family Guy	The Simpsons	Family Guy	Street Patrol	Street Patrol	Jail (N)	Jail	TMZ (N)	Frasier	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Paid	Paid	Bernie Mac	My Wife-Kids	Half & Half	Half & Half
(40) WPCB	The 700 Club		Focus 4		Theater	Master	F4 Generation	Rescuers	Day-Discovery	Quick Study	CBN News	Richard and Lindsay Roberts		Master	Focus 4		Gaither Homecoming Hour	
(59) WBGN	Temptation	Temptation	Degrassi	Reno 911!	The Nanny	Mad Abt. You	★ Half Past Dead (2002)				Reno 911!	Blind Date	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid
A&E	Cold Case Files		CSI: Miami "Kill Zone"		The First 48		The First 48		Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	The First 48		The First 48		Parking Wars	Parking Wars
ABCFAM	8 Rules	8 Rules	Grounded-Life	Grounded-Life	Funniest Home Videos		Funniest Home Videos		Funniest Home Videos		The 700 Club		Wildfire "Calm"		Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid
AMC	★★½ The Karate Kid (1984)				★★★ Enter the Dragon (1973)		★★★ Enter the Dragon (1973)					★★½ Red Dawn (1984)					★★ Batman (1966)	
ANPL	The Crocodile Hunter		Prehistoric Park "Mammoth"		Ferocious African Crocodiles		Animal Attacks		Animal Precinct (N)		Ferocious African Crocodiles		Animal Attacks		Animal Precinct		Prehistoric Park "Mammoth"	
BBC	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares		BBC World News America		BBC World News America		BBC World News America		BBC World News America		BBC World News America		Doctor Who		Doctor Who		Torchwood "Sleeper"	
BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live Kobe Bryant.		Movie Special		Uncle P (2007) Premiere.				Top 25 Dancers of All Time		Hell Date	Hell Date	Jamie Foxx	Jamie Foxx	Uncle P (2007)			
BRAVO	Project Runway "On Garde"		Project Runway		The Millionaire Matchmaker		The Millionaire Matchmaker		The Millionaire Matchmaker		The Millionaire Matchmaker		Project Runway		Make Me a Supermodel		The Millionaire Matchmaker	
CMT	Gone Country	★★★ Pure Country (1992)					Gone Country		Gone Country	My Truck	My Truck	My Truck	My Truck	My Truck	Home Videos	Home Videos	CMT Music	
CNBC	Mad Money		Your Money, Your Vote.				Deal or No Deal		The Big Idea With Deutsch		Mad Money		Deal or No Deal		The Big Idea With Deutsch		Paid	Paid
CNN	The Situation Room		Lou Dobbs Tonight		Super Tuesday Primary Coverage Results.								Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360		Anderson Cooper 360	
COM	★★½ The Hebrew Hammer		Scrubs	Scrubs	Daily Show	Colbert	Futurama	South Park	Dunham: Spark of Insanity		Daily Show	Colbert	Dunham: Spark of Insanity		Daily Show	Colbert	★½ The Shrink Is In (2000)	
COURT	Wildest Police Videos		Cops	Cops "Texas"	Cops	Cops	Most Shocking		Real Hustle	Real Hustle	The Investigators		Cops	Cops	Most Shocking		Real Hustle	Real Hustle
CSPAN	House of Representatives				Tonight From Washington						Capital News Today						Today In Washington	
DISC	Cash Cab	Cash Cab	How It's Made	How It's Made	Dirty Jobs "Buoy Cleaner"		Dirty Jobs (N)		Some Assembly Required (N)		MythBusters		Dirty Jobs "Buoy Cleaner"		Dirty Jobs		Some Assembly Required	
DISNEY	Han. Montana	Han. Montana	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	★★½ The Color of Friendship (2000)				That's-Raven	Life Derek	Zack & Cody	Han. Montana	Replacements	Kim Possible	Emperor New	Dragon	Buzz Light	Timon
E!	The Soup	Chelsea	E! News (N)	The Daily 10	★★ Nine Months (1995)				Girl Next Door	Girl Next Door	E! News	Chelsea	The Daily 10	Girl Next Door	Girl Next Door	Dr. 90210 Race car driver.		Chelsea
ESPN	SportsCenter		College Basketball Michigan at Ohio State.				College Basketball Florida at Tennessee.				SportsCenter		NFL Live (N)	Fastbreak	SportsCenter		SportsCenter	
ESPNC	Schwab	Schwab	American Gladiators		Boxing		On the Auction Block (N)		In the Books	Boxing	Bull Riding: PRCA		The Contender		Wrestling	Wrestling	Cheap Seats	Arliss
ESPN2	NASCAR Now	Rome-Burning	NBA Coast-to-Coast				College Basketball Butler at Valparaiso.				Gamenight	Billiards: Trick	NASCAR Now	Strongest	Formula D Drifting		Winter X-Games	
EWTN	Choices-Face	Rag City	Daily Mass: Our Lady		Mother Angelica-Classic		Religious	Holy Rosary	Threshold of Hope		Christ in City	Catholic	Daily Mass: Our Lady		Mother Angelica-Classic		Threshold of Hope	
FNC	Special Report		You Decide 2008 Super Tuesday. (N)												On the Record-Van Susteren		Special Report	
FOOD	Minute Meals	Minute Meals	Emeril Live		Good Eats	Good Eats	Bobby Flay	Bobby Flay	Ace of Cakes	A Cook's Tour	Good Eats	Unwrapped	Bobby Flay	Bobby Flay	Ace of Cakes	A Cook's Tour	Good Eats	Unwrapped
FSN	Final Score	Savran on SportsBeat		Americans	Sport Science		Best Damn Sports Show		SportsBeat	Final Score	Best Damn Sports Show		Final Score	Best Damn Sports Show		SportsBeat	Final Score	Final Score
FX	★★★ Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines			★★½ The Day After Tomorrow (2004)					Nip/Tuck "Lulu Grandiron"		Nip/Tuck "Lulu Grandiron"		'70s Show	'70s Show	'70s Show	'70s Show	Paid	Guthy-Renker
GOLF	Golf-Academy	Inside PGA	Play Lessons	Road Trip (N)	The Approach	Golf Central	Big Break: Mesquite		Big Break: Mesquite		Top 10 (N)	Golf Central	Big Break: Mesquite		Inside PGA	Road Trip	The Approach	Golf Central
GSN	Lingo	Whammy	Weakest Link		Be a Millionaire		Family Feud	Family Feud	How Much	Chain	Lingo	Whammy	Be a Millionaire		Trivia Trap	Now You See	High Stakes Poker	
HALL	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Walker, Texas Ranger		Walker, Texas Ranger		What I Did for Love (2006)				Murder, She Wrote		Murder, She Wrote		Walker, Texas Ranger		Walker, Texas Ranger	
HGTV	Small Space	If Walls Could	House Worth?	House	Designed-Sell	My Kitchen	Desperate Sp.	Open House	House	Secrets Sell	House Worth?	Hid Potential	Designed-Sell	My Kitchen	Desperate Sp.	Open House	House	Secrets Sell
HIST	Lost Worlds "The Pagans"		Modern Marvels		The Universe "Dark Matter"		The Universe "Space Travel"		Mega Disasters		Modern Marvels "Carbon"		The Universe "Dark Matter"		The Universe "Space Travel"		Mega Disasters	
LIFE	Reba	Reba	Still Standing	Still Standing	Reba	Reba	The Interrogation of Michael Crowe (2002) Premiere.				Will & Grace	Will & Grace	Frasier	Frasier	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	The Nanny	Guthy-Renker
MSNBC	Super Tuesday		Super Tuesday		Super Tuesday		Super Tuesday		Super Tuesday		Super Tuesday		Super Tuesday		Super Tuesday		Super Tuesday	
MTV	Dance Crew	Life of Ryan	True Life Financial burdens.		True Life		True Life Anger struggles.		Life of Ryan	Rob & Big (N)	Jackass	Jackass	Jackass	Jackass	Rob & Big	Rob & Big	Rob & Big	Rob & Big
NICK	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	Ned's School	Zoey 101	Drake & Josh	SpongeBob	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	George Lopez	George Lopez	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	George Lopez	George Lopez	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince
OXY	Janice Dickinson Modeling		Janice Dickinson Modeling		Bad Girls	Bad Girls	Bad Girls	Bad Girls	Bad Girls	Janice Dickinson Modeling		Bad Girls	Janice Dickinson Modeling		The Tyra Banks Show		Janice Dickinson Modeling	
PCN	PCN Tours		PA Public Affairs														Deutsche Welle News	
PCNC	Lynn Cullen Show Talk show.		News	News	NightTalk With Ann Devlin		News		NightTalk With Ann Devlin		Honsberger	Fedko Fone	News			Paid	NightTalk With Ann Devlin	
SCIFI	Stargate SG-1		Scary	Scary	Scariest Places on Earth		Scariest Places on Earth		ECW		R.O.D. Read or Die				Twilight Zone	Twilight Zone	The X-Files "Alpha"	
SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: NY "Stealing Home"		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Star Trek: Voyager		Blade: The Series "Pilot"	
TBS	Friends	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	The Office	The Office	10 Items-Less	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	10 Items-Less	Frank TV	Frank TV	10 Items-Less	Mars Attacks!
TCM	★★★ The Sterile Cuckoo (1969)				★★★★ The Best Years of Our Lives (1946) Three World War II veterans come home.						★★★ All the King's Men (1949)				★★★★ Casablanca (1942)			Rebecca
TLC	Property Ladder		Flip That House "Tina; Neil"		Area 51: Fact or Fiction		LA Ink	LA Ink	LA Ink Orbi's father. (N)		LA Ink Orbi's father.		LA Ink	LA Ink	Area 51: Fact or Fiction		Flip That House "Tina; Neil"	
TNT	Law & Order "Slaughter"		Law & Order "Identity"		Law & Order "Locomotion"		Law & Order "Captive"		Bones "The Man in the SUV"		Cold Case "The Plan"		Without a Trace		Without a Trace "No Mas"		Without a Trace	
TOON	Scooby-Doo	Scooby-Doo	Codename	Camp Lazlo	Gym Partner	Johnny Test	Grim Advent.	Courage-Dog	Ed, Edd	Naruto	Family Guy	Family Guy	Chicken	Shin Chan	Ghost in Shell	Eureka 7	Family Guy	Family Guy
TRAVEL	Disney Cruise Line		Walt Disney World Resort		Anthony Bourdain		Bizarre Foods-Zimmern		Bizarre Foods-Zimmern		Anthony Bourdain		Anthony Bourdain		Bizarre Foods-Zimmern		Bizarre Foods-Zimmern	
TVLAND	Bev. Hillbillies	Bev. Hillbillies	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Bev. Hillbillies	Bev. Hillbillies	Bev. Hillbillies	Bev. Hillbillies	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Just Shoot	Just Shoot	Bev. Hillbillies	Bev. Hillbillies	Sanford	Jeffersons
USA	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Law & Order: SVU		★★ The Hunted (2003)			
VH1	Celebrity Rehab		Celebrity Rehab		40 Greatest Pranks				Rock of Love-Bret Michaels		Celebrity Rehab		Fabulous Life Of...		Scott Baio 46		Rags Rich	Rags Rich
VS.	NHL Hockey		WEC WrekCage		NHL Hockey Carolina Hurricanes at Nashville Predators.					Hockey	World Extreme Cagefighting				WEC WrekCage		WEC WrekCage	
WE	Secret Lives of Women		48 Hours Mystery		48 Hours Mystery		48 Hours Mystery		Twister Sisters		Twister Sisters		48 Hours Mystery		48 Hours Mystery		Twister Sisters	
WGN	Funniest Pets	Funniest Pets	Funniest Home Videos		Funniest Pets	Funniest Pets	Funniest Pets	Funniest Pets	WGN News at Nine (N)		WGN News	Scrubs	Corner Gas	Becker	Funniest Home Videos		The Steve Wilkos Show (N)	
ENC	★★ Stick It (2006)				★★★ Find Me Guilty (2006)				★★½ Wes Craven's New Nightmare (1994)					★★ Mobsters (1991)			★★ Stick It (2006)	
HBO	REAL Sports		★½ Code Name: The Cleaner (2007)				Vince Vaughn	In Treatment	In Treatment		★ Epic Movie (2007)		★½ Norbit (2007)		★★★ Notes on a Scandal (2006) Premiere.			
MAX	Intimate	★ The Return (2006)			★★★ A History of Violence (2005)				★★½ Beverly Hills Cop III (1994)		Kinky Sex Club (2005)				★★ The Hills Have Eyes (2006)			
SHOW	★½ The Zodiac (2005)		★★ Failure to Launch (2006)				The L Word		★★½ Puccini for Beginners (2006)		★★ Employee of the Month (2006)					★★★ Down in the Valley (2005)		
STARZ	★½ Pulse (2006)		★★★ Eight Below (2006)				★½ Wild Hogs (2007)			★★★ The Rock (1996)					★½ Primeval (2007)			Running-Scis.
TMC	Conversations	★★ I Love Your Work (2003)			Succubus: Hell-Bent (2007)				Death to the Supermodels (2005)		★★★ My Date With Drew (2004)				★½ Ringmaster (1998)			The Boys

Knight falls at Texas Tech

Bobby Knight ended his long coaching career Monday, with his son taking over the Red Raiders. 2B

Valley SPORTS

China on Mini-Page

As Beijing prepares to host the 2008 Olympics, China is featured on today's Mini-Page. 5B

Hampton In Pro Bowl

The Steelers' Casey Hampton has been added to the AFC roster after an injury to San Diego's Jamal Williams. 2B

Sports Trivia

Which was the last team to beat the Monessen High girls' basketball team in a regular season game? 2B

Last night's games

New Jersey 4, Pittsburgh 3, OT
Edmonton 5, Calgary 0
Phoenix 4, Colorado 3, OT

Playoff answers due tonight

Seedings and sites will be announced at pairings meeting in Coraopolis.

Will Monessen High's unbeaten girls' basketball team get the first or second seed in Class A?

How important was winning section titles for the Monessen, Belle Vernon Area and California boys?

What are the chances of Ringgold's girls getting a good seed after sharing a section championship with Chartiers Valley?

Those questions will be answered at the WPIAL playoff pairings meeting tonight at the Embassy Suites in Coraopolis.

The playoffs are scheduled to start this weekend.

The area will be represented by 10 teams with five in both the boys' and girls' fields.

Belle Vernon Area and Ringgold's boys are in Class AAA with Monessen in Class AA and California and Bentworth in Class A.

Elizabeth Forward and Ringgold's girls are in Class AAA with Charleroi in Class A and Monessen and California in Class A.

Eight teams in Class AA will advance to the PIAA tourney, with six going from Class AAAA and AAA with Class A advancing five.

In non-section finals Monday, Bentworth's boys won while the Elizabeth Forward boys and Bentworth girls lost.

Bentworth downed McGuffey, 65-43,to up its record to 15-7 with the trio of Jon Kennedy (20), Joe Kennedy (14)and Jason Jansante (11) combining for 45 points.

Elizabeth Forward bowed at Trinity, 64-61, with Jordan Austin (15), Casey Gibbons (14) and Nick Giansante (14) high for the Warriors (5-19).

Bentworth's girls closed at12-12 with a 61-49 setback to McGuffey. Looking best for the Lady Bearcats were Amanda Kennedy (14), Brittany Speed (13) and Samantha Ritzer (11).

The complete playoff field with records is on Page 3B.

Brian **HERMAN**

Dudzinski No. 2 on BV Area's scoring list

Cleaning out the notebook:

■ With 21 points in Belle Vernon Area's regular season ending 61-42 win over Yough, Jacob Dudzinski became the school's No. 2 all-time scorer.

Dudzinski has scored 1,418 career points to drop Matt Rowland to third with 1,407.

Vince Graham tops the list with 2,394 points.

With 489 points this season, Dudzinski needs 11 in the WPIAL playoffs to become only the the sixth Lep to ever score 500 or more points in a season.

The other players in the 500 club are Graham, Rowland, Tom Parks, Ken Simril and Tom Emelo.

Graham did it three times with a school-high 715 in 1995 and 687 the previous season.

Rowland and Emelo both did it twice, with Parks and Simril reaching the milestone once.

Dudzinski is also only the school's sixth 1,000-pointer, behind Graham (2,394), Rowland, Parks (1,184), Ron Haten (1,113) and Emelo (1,037).

Two of Dudzinski's teammates — Josh Pohlot and Bo Lustig — are good bets to join the 1,000 point club if they avoid injuries.

A sophomore, Pohlot is off to a strong start with 359 points. Lustig, a freshman, has 227 points with three seasons remaining.

Speaking of the Leps, their 19-5 record is the seventh best in the school's history dating back to 1966.

Don Asmonga's 1978 WPIAL Class AAA champs were the biggest winner with a 26-5 mark, including four victories in the WPIAL playoffs and one in the PIAA playoffs.

Phil Stewart guided the 1998 team that went 25-3 with a pair of WPIAL playoff wins.

Asmonga also coached 24-, 21- and 20-game winners in the 1970s with Stewart coaching a 22-game winner in 2001.

In case you're wondering, Dudzinski's father, John, has a five-year overall coaching record of 49-69 with the Leps.

■ Mark Gaither's first year as the Bethel Park High boys' basketball coach after leaving Ringgold didn't turn out to be a good one.

After starting out 4-0, his Backhawks went 5-15, including 3-9 in rugged Class AAAA Section 4.

Graduating all five starters from last year's WPIAL championship team, Bethel Park missed the playoffs by tying for fifth with Baldwin behind Moon, Canon-McMillan , Upper St. Clair and Peters Township.

■ In case you missed it, Monessen's 23-0 girls will enter the playoffs as the WPIAL's lone unbeaten since Class AAAA's Norwin girls were a 66-53 loser at Woodland Hills Monday.

Norwin finished at 23-1.

■ And thanks to Bill Horrell, of Belle Vernon, who says the beginning of wisdom is silence — the second is listening!

Devils force three-way tie

Overtime win leaves Pittsburgh, New Jersey and Philadelphia deadlocked atop the Atlantic Division.

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — In the closing minute of the second period, Jamie Langenbrunner finally gave the sluggish New Jersey Devils a long-awaited jolt.

His goal cut the Devils' deficit in half with a period to go. The New Jersey captain felt that the tide was turning, but his coach still wasn't happy.

And rightfully so. There was still some angst to come before a stirring rally lifted the Devils to an important 4-3 overtime victory against the Pittsburgh Penguins on Monday night.

"I didn't like the way we were playing in the second period, at all," said Devils coach Brent Sutter, who delivered a pointed message to his team before the third. "They responded the way you would like a team to respond and expect a team to respond."

A power-play goal by Jordan Staal increased Pittsburgh's lead to 3-1 early in the third before Patrik Elias and David Clarkson scored less than two minutes apart to tie it. That set up Zach Parise's winner, off a feed from Elias, to win it 37 seconds into overtime.

Now New Jersey, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia are tied in points atop the Atlantic Division.

"We played better at the end of the second," Langenbrunner said. "It gave us a little momentum, but we shot ourselves in the foot giving up the power-play goal right away. We showed a little character, battling back and playing our best period in a long time.

"We've got to figure out a way to play that third period game in and game out."

Instead of heading to Buffalo on the heels of a 1-4 homestand, the Devils will carry a two-game winning streak into their one-game trip Wednesday before four more in Newark.

"It wasn't reinventing the wheel," said Parise, who had two assists to go with his 20th goal. "We had to put forth a better effort and we did in the third. Hopefully we saw the way we need to play."

Parise won it by tipping Elias' drive past Ty Conklin on the only shot of overtime. New Jersey, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia all have 63 points in the five-team Atlantic.

"We let that extra point slip away and it feels like we gift-wrapped two points for them," Conklin said. "It's not something you want to do, especially against a divisional opponent."

Martin Brodeur earned his 28th win of the season and was credited with an assist on the winning goal. That made up for his tripping penalty in the third period that led to Staal's power-play tally.

The Devils, who recorded only 14 shots through two periods, mounted a quick comeback in the third that they didn't seem to have in them.

"We got outcompeted and outworked in the second period," Sutter said. "In the third we played the way we need to play and the way we expect to play."

After Staal pushed Pittsburgh's lead to 3-1 4:30 into the third, Elias and Clarkson connected 1:44 apart.

That gave the crowd of 13,012 fans — the smallest crowd in the short history of Prudential Center — something to cheer about. Until then, the loudest roar was in the first period when the Devils posted a congratulatory message on the scoreboard to the Super Bowl champion New York Giants.

Each club had 10 shots in the third period and both seemed content to play conservatively and get to overtime.

"We definitely played the third period and overtime like we cared and wanted to win," Sutter said.

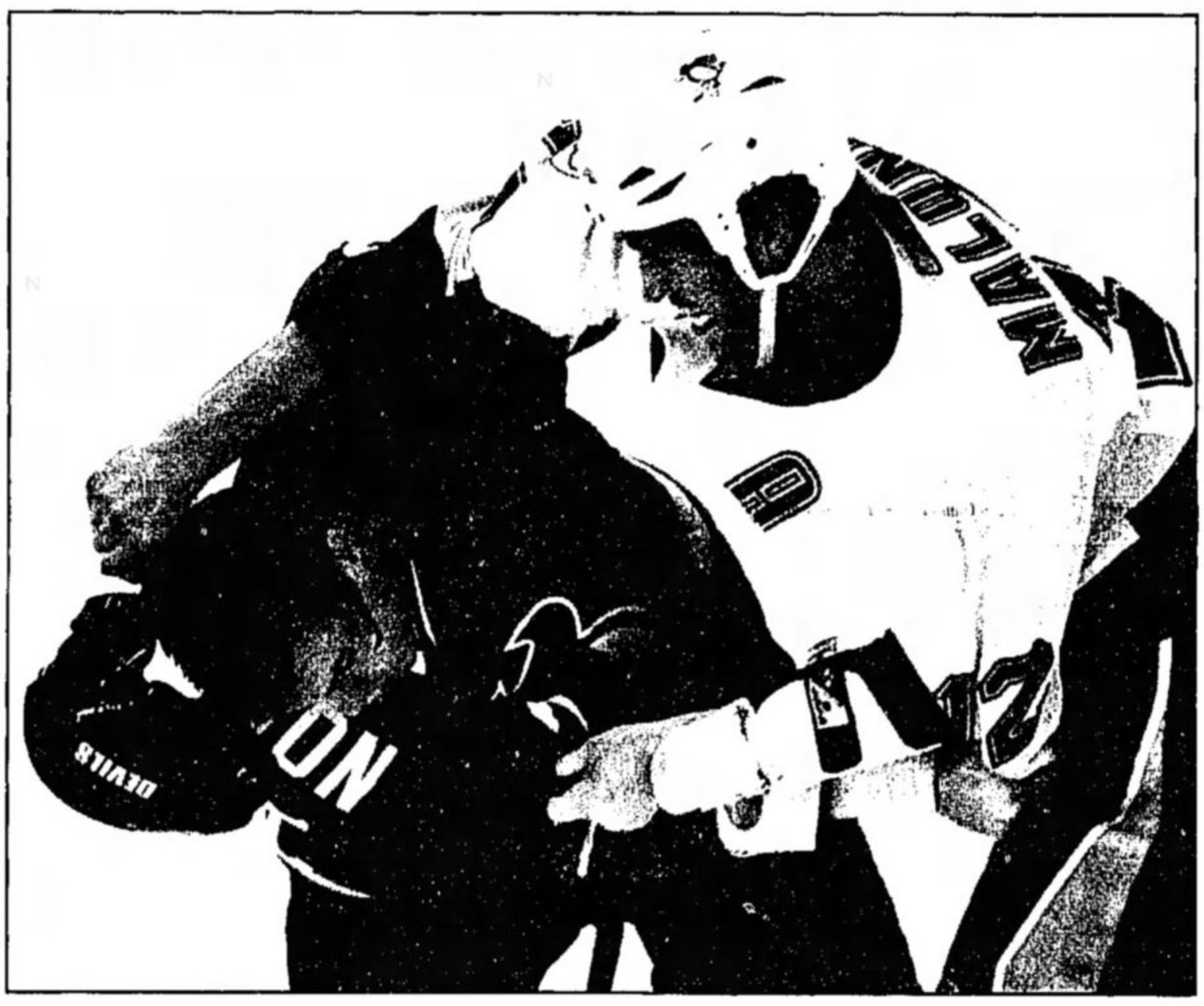
The teams tied an NHL record with nine straight wins by the road team in this series, including the first five this season. New Jersey won three in Pittsburgh this season and the Penguins extended the run last Tuesday by beating the Devils 4-2 in Newark.

Petr Sykora and Ryan Malone also scored for the Penguins, who fell to 3-2-2 since captain Sidney Crosby's ankle injury. Sykora's goal was the 600th NHL point for the forward, who spent his first seven seasons with New Jersey.

"It's unacceptable to lose a hockey game like this," coach Michel Therrien said.

Evgeni Malkin's two assists tied Crosby for the team lead with 63 points.

> "We let that extra point slip away and it feels like we gift-wrapped two points for them."
>
> Penguins goalie Ty Conklin



Associated Press

Ryan Malone, right, knocks off the helmet of New Jersey's David Clarkson as they fight in the first period Monday night.

Super Bowl XLIII: Manning vs. Manning?

Giants' quarterback would like to face his brother next year.

Eli Manning

CHANDLER, Ariz. (AP) — Eli Manning wants another Super Bowl, one against big brother, Peyton. Next year wouldn't be too soon.

"It would be fun to be back to the Super Bowl, Eli said Monday. "That's the way I look at it. If it happens to be against the Colts, then that would be a fun game to be a part of. Again, it would be fun to be back and have a shot to do this again."

Manning made the most of his first shot Sunday, leading the New York Giants on a late game-winning, 83-yard touchdown drive in a stunning 17-14 win over the previously unbeaten New England Patriots in one of the biggest upsets in Super Bowl history.

The performance earned Eli an MVP award, just a year after Peyton got the same award for leading the Colts to a title over the Chicago Bears.

"It doesn't change my attitude, my personality, or even my goals for next season," Manning said. "It's still the same. I'm happy today, I'm fired up and I'm going to enjoy this moment.

"You still want to do it again. You still want to have this feeling again," Eli added. "It's hard to say that now because you're still enjoying it now, but you have to have the same commitment to playing football. I've got to become a better quarterback."

That can wait until after the Giants ticker-tape parade today in New York.

"Everybody's looking forward to it," Manning said. "I'm sure New York will throw a pretty good parade for us."

Giants coach Tom Coughlin, who appeared with Manning at the MVP press conference on Monday in Phoenix, said the fourth-year quarterback has come a long way since that first year when teams like Baltimore made him look foolish with blitzes.

His Super-Bowl-winning 13-yard touchdown pass to Plaxico Burress came on a Patriots' blitz.

"(They) had been playing zone, keeping two safeties back and just playing a little conservative through that whole drive," said Manning, who completed 19 of 34 for 255, two touchdowns and an interception. "Finally, I knew they'd come after us. They came out with a blitz and had one-on-one with Plaxico Burress. That's a

(See MANNING, Page 2B)

SPORTS

Knight retiring

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — Bob Knight promised that when he finally decided to call it quits at Texas Tech it would be hard to find him.

The Hall of Fame coach stayed true to his word Monday. After telling his sons, his bosses and his team of his resignation, Knight spoke only to one local newspaper about his shocking departure in the middle of his seventh season in West Texas.

"He's ready," successor and son Pat Knight said during his weekly radio program. "He's tired."

Knight left during his 42nd year as a head coach with more wins than any Division I men's coach. Pat Knight inherited a team that is struggling at 12-8 and has 10 games remaining.

"This is my team, that's what he told me. He's done," Pat Knight said on his radio show. "He's got a lot of life left to enjoy."

Almost a decade after he was fired by Indiana, the school he led to three national championships — one an undefeated season not since matched — Knight walked away from college basketball.

It was a stunning midseason move by Knight, who gave no hint a change was coming.

"There's a transition that's going to take place here from me to Pat and I've dwelt on this all year long ... how it would be best for him and for the team and for what we can do in the long run to make this the best thing for Texas Tech," Knight told the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, which first reported the resignation.

Section 1 champions

The Belle Vernon Area Middle School basketball team won the Section 1 title with an 11-1 record and finished 18-3 overall. In front, from left, are Tyler Frankel, Dean Manown, Matt Suchko, Ryan Thomas, Tommy Campano, Chaz Balsano and Billy Boot; middle row, from left, are Joe Simsic, Brandon Rose, Kirby Manown, Jake Burritt, Kevin McNeil and Adam Ferita; and back row, from left, are coach Rich Gregory, principal Dr. John Folmar, Jesse Kallam, Conor Shutterly, Franklin Hewitt, Brandon Talaga, assistant coach Ryan Shetterly and principal Steve Russell.

Steelers' Hampton added to Pro Bowl

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Pittsburgh Steelers defensive tackle Casey Hampton will .play in his third consecutive Pro Bowl after being chosen Monday as the injury replacement for the Chargers' Jamal Williams.

Hampton, selected this season as one of the 33 members of the Steelers' 75th anniversary all-time team, will join quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, guard Alan Faneca and outside linebacker James Harrison in Honolulu. Faneca and Harrison will be AFC starters.

This is the first Pro Bowl appearance for Roethlisberger and Harrison, the fourth for Hampton and the seventh for Faneca, an All-Pro left guard who is scheduled to become an unrestricted free agent.

Casey Hampton

Two Steelers players will miss the game with injuries, running back Willie Parker (broken leg) and safety Troy Polamalu (sprained knee).

Hampton was also selected for the Pro Bowl during the 2003, 2005 and 2006 seasons.

Ohio State, Michigan hoping for Pryor

Rivals bidding for high school football's top recruit.

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) — Terrelle Pryor lives in a small town near Pittsburgh, insulated from the Ohio State-Michigan rivalry.

The highly touted quarterback is about to make a decision, though, that might end up making him a pivotal player in one of the marquee matchups in sports.

Pryor is expected to announce Wednesday where he will play football next fall and many will be surprised if he doesn't choose to be a Buckeye or a Wolverine.

"He has no idea what the rivalry is about and how much he has added to the intensity of it," said Steelers quarterback Charlie Batch, a family friend and recruiting adviser. "I know all about it after playing at Eastern Michigan and for the Lions, so it'll be interesting to see how it plays out if he chooses Ohio State or Michigan."

The Jeannette High School star might stay closer to home to play for Joe Paterno at Penn State. Or, he could possibly stun everyone tuning in to hear what he says on national TV by picking Oregon, LSU or Florida. Or he could take some extra time to make up his mind. Wednesday is only the first day of the signing period. While most top players ink a scholarship that day, they're not obligated to do so.

"He's still unsure what he is going to do at this point," Batch said Monday night.

Only one thing seems clear.

The Ohio State-Michigan series has not been played out off the field quite like it has since Rich Rodriguez left West Virginia to coach in Ann Arbor.

Pryor told The Associated Press on Dec. 16 that Rodriguez called him at 10 a.m., saying he was going to coach the Wolverines. News of Rodriguez's move broke later in the day.

Don Nehlen, Rodriguez's coach and mentor at West Virginia, quickly raised the stakes.

"If that kid comes, he's probably more important than Rich," Nehlen joked six weeks ago.

Pryor, also an all-state basketball star, has been juggling recruiting visits and meetings with his basketball games. Ohio State coach Jim Tressel, Rodriguez and assistants from both schools were at Jeannette High's game Saturday night.

The 6-foot-6 Pryor is rated as the No. 1 recruit at any position by Rivals.com and Scout.com and was the MVP last month in U.S. Army All-American game in San Antonio.

"He's in a class of his own and he compares favorably to Vince Young and Randall Cunningham because he's a freak athlete that is a threat to throw or run," Rivals.com's Mike Farrell said.

In a dissenting opinion, Takkel.com ranks him 16th overall.

"Don't get me wrong, he's a brilliant athlete," said Bill Urbanik, a former coach and scout, whose evaluation contributed to Takkel.com's rankings. "But like other big quarterbacks such as Vince Young, Michael Vick and Steve McNair, he doesn't show the ability to throw the ball accurately."

Manning (FROM PAGE ONE)

matchup we're going to take every time."

The touchdown not only spoiled the Patriots' perfect season and made the Giants a Super Bowl champion for the third time, it also vindicated former general manager Ernie Accorsi's decision to acquire Manning on draft day in 2004.

Despite being encouraged by the Manning family to pass on Eli, San Diego drafted him No. 1.

The Giants then acquired him from the Chargers for the rights to quarterback Philip Rivers — the No. 4 pick overall — and a couple of draft picks, one of which turned out to be All-Pro linebacker Shawne Merriman.

Every time Manning struggled in the past 3 1/2 seasons, Accorsi got blamed for mortgaging the future of the franchise on Peyton Manning's not-as-good little brother.

"I couldn't be happier," Accorsi said Monday at the Giants' team hotel. "I have a thick skin. To me, it was part of the job. If he wasn't playing well, I was going to be criticized. I don't have any vindictive feeling. It was too great a moment to think about that."

Accorsi said the frantic fourth quarter in some ways mirrored the ups and down of the past four years with Manning.

With New York clinging to a 10-7 lead with 8:32 to play, Manning scrambled out of the pocket near his own 30-yard line and overthrew a wide-open Plaxico Burress with a lob pass along the left sideline.

"Your quarterback just cost us the championship," a Giants fan sitting in front of Accorsi turned and yelled.

It seemed prophetic when Tom Brady took over on the next possession and led an 80-yard drive that resulted in a 6-yard touchdown pass to Randy Moss with 2:42 to play.

Then it all came together. With everything on the line, Manning took his team down the field and got into the end zone in the final minute with a 13-yard pass to Burress.

Naturally, Accorsi was thrilled. So, too, was a former critic sitting in front of him.

The man who accused Manning of costing the Giants the Super Bowl 8 minutes earlier turned and tried to kiss Accorsi.

"He was aiming right at my lips, but he didn't get that close," a laughing Accorsi said while shaking his head.

After the parade, Accorsi and the Giants have some housekeeping chores.

Coach Tom Coughlin is expected to get a lengthy contract extension that will pay him around $5 million annually. He made $3.25 million this year and was to make the same in 2008.

Linebackers Kawika Mitchell and Reggie Torbor, safety Gibril Wilson, kicker Lawrence Tynes and punter Jeff Feagles — all starters in the Super Bowl — are free agents.

"We'll get moving on that as soon as we get back," said general manager Jerry Reese, the man who replaced Accorsi.

SPORTS DIGEST

BV Area wrestling makeup matches

Two Belle Vernon Area wrestling makeup matches have been scheduled this week.

The Leps will host Valley today at 7 p.m. and Wednesday entertain McGuffey at 7 p.m. in their annual Senior Night.

Monessen cagers down Charleroi

Monessen Junior High's basketball team downed Charleroi, 50-36, to close at 17-3 and avenge one of their defeats.

Cam Johnson was high for the Little Greyhounds with 16 points while Kyle Shannon looked best for Charleroi (13-50 with 14 points.

Monessen girls' softball signups

Monessen girls' softball signups are scheduled the next two Wednesdays and Thursdays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Civic Center for youngsters between the ages of six and 14.

Judge rules Vick can keep bonus money

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Jailed quarterback Michael Vick can keep all but $3.75 million of the nearly $20 million in bonus money he received from the Atlanta Falcons following a ruling by a federal judge.

The Falcons sought to recover the bonuses after Vick pleaded guilty to federal charges in a dogfighting operation. The bonuses were paid from 2004-07.

A special master ruled in October the Falcons were entitled to recover the bonuses. The Falcons argued Vick used proceeds from a contract he signed in 2004 to finance his illicit activities.

But U.S. District Judge David Doty of Minneapolis ruled that recovery of most of the bonus money by the Falcons would violate the NFL collective bargaining agreement. The agreement does not allow roster bonus money to be forfeited once it's been earned, the judge wrote.

Vick received a 23-month jail sentence and entered a minimum-security prison in Leavenworth, Kan., last month. The league has suspended Vick indefinitely without pay.

Pitt's Walker listed day-to-day

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Pitt center Marcedes Walker's ankle injury is not as serious as was initially thought and she is listed as day to day for the No. 15 Panthers.

Walker sprained her ankle in the final minute of the first half of Pitt's 64-60 loss to then-No. 4 Rutgers on Saturday. She didn't return and, with Walker out, Rutgers went on a late 15-1 run to win.

The 6-foot-3 senior leads Pitt and is second in the Big East in rebounding with a 10.1 average. She is Pitt's second-leading scorer with a 14.1 average.

Panthers hire defensive coordinator

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Former Southern Methodist head coach Phil Bennett, fired with four games remaining last season, was hired Monday as Pitt's defensive coordinator.

Bennett, a longtime acquaintance of Pitt coach Dave Wannstedt, replaces Paul Rhoads. Rhoads held the job for eight seasons under Wannstedt and former coach Walt Harris before leaving last month for the same job at Auburn.

"I'm incredibly excited to be part of what is happening here and look forward to helping the program continue its climb, both in the Big East and nationally," Bennett said.

Pitt was 5-7 last season, its third consecutive losing record under Wannstedt, but finished with a 13-9 win over then-No. 2 West Virginia — one of the biggest upsets in school history.

The 52-year-old Bennett had an 18-52 record in six seasons at SMU, where he was dismissed Oct. 28 following a 1-7 start.

Trivia answer

Upper St. Clair, 54-38, Jan 30, 2007.

SPORTS HISTORY

30 Years Ago

Mon Valley Catholic downed Waynesburg, 62-46, behind Dave DeMarino's 15 points.

Delmer Beshore scored 16 points in California State College's 87-65 loss at Clarion.

20 Years Ago

Dawn Ghoilani joined Mon Valley Catholic's 1,000 point club with 15 in an 87-49 romp over West Greene.

Ereka Woods had 24 points in Monessen's 66-51 loss at Mapletown.

Traci Stasicha and Julie Claybaugh both had 13 points in Charleroi's 49-41 defeat at McGuffey.

The Pittsburgh Penguins acquired right winger Bryan Erickson from the Los Angels Kings for center Chris Kontos and future considerations.

10 Years Ago

The Keystone Conference showed a new look following realignment with Thomas Jefferson, West Mifflin, McGuffey and Peters Township joining Belle Vernon Area, Elizabeth Forward, Yough, Mt. Pleasant and Southmoreland.

Vince Graham scored 23 points including a three-pointer at the buzzer to California University a 70-67 victory over Clarion after the Vulcans trailed by as many as 18 points in the second half.

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To find out more, look for your copy of Money Matters on Wednesday, February 20th, 2008.

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THE Valley INDEPENDENT
TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

SPORTS

NHL standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	30	20	3	63	138	128
Philadelphia	29	17	5	63	166	144
Pittsburgh	29	19	5	63	155	144
N.Y. Rangers	27	22	6	60	137	136
N.Y. Islanders	24	23	6	54	128	153

Northeast Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Ottawa	32	17	4	68	182	155
Montreal	28	16	9	65	169	147
Boston	27	20	5	59	137	138
Buffalo	23	21	7	53	151	146
Toronto	21	24	9	51	150	172

Southeast Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Atlanta	26	25	4	56	152	180
Carolina	26	25	4	56	165	177
Washington	24	24	5	53	152	166
Florida	24	25	5	53	137	153
Tampa Bay	21	27	5	47	153	178

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	40	10	4	84	182	113
Nashville	27	21	5	59	154	145
Columbus	25	23	6	56	133	138
St. Louis	24	20	7	55	131	144
Chicago	23	24	5	51	144	152

Northwest Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Minnesota	30	19	3	63	147	140
Colorado	28	21	5	61	153	151
Calgary	26	19	8	60	152	154
Vancouver	26	21	6	58	140	133
Edmonton	24	26	5	53	146	165

Pacific Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	31	20	5	67	164	143
San Jose	29	16	7	65	139	126
Anaheim	27	22	7	61	136	146
Phoenix	28	22	3	59	147	145
Los Angeles	21	30	3	45	151	179

Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss or shootout loss.

Monday's Games

New Jersey 4, Pittsburgh 3, OT
Edmonton 5, Calgary 0
Phoenix 4, Colorado 3, OT

Today's Games

Buffalo at Boston, 7 p.m.
Anaheim at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Atlanta, 7 p.m.
Washington at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Los Angeles at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Ottawa at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
Florida at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Detroit at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Carolina at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Tampa Bay at St. Louis, 8:30 p.m.
Vancouver at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Calgary, 9 p.m.

Penguins summary

Pittsburgh	0	2	1	0	— 3
New Jersey	0	1	2	1	— 4

First Period—None. Penalties—Mottau, NJ (high-sticking), 3:13; Parise, NJ (slashing), 8:27; Malone, Pit, major (fighting), 15:41; Clarkson, NJ, major (fighting), 15:41; Christensen, Pit (hooking), 17:24.

Second Period—1, Pittsburgh, Malone 15 (Malkin, Sydor), 2:26 (pp). 2, Pittsburgh, Sykora 17 (Malkin, Gonchar), 11:50. 3, New Jersey, Langenbrunner 9 (Parise, Elias), 19:18 (pp). Penalties—Elias, NJ (interference), 1:07; Oduya, NJ (tripping), 3:27; Christensen, Pit (hooking), 17:37.

Third Period—4, Pittsburgh, Staal 7 (Talbot, Letang), 4:30 (pp). 5, New Jersey, Elias 16 (Parise), 9:37. 6, New Jersey, Clarkson 7 (Oduya, Madden), 11:21. Penalties—Malone, Pit (hooking), :30; Brodeur, NJ, served by Clarkson (tripping), 2:47; Armstrong, Pit (unsportsmanlike conduct), 11:55; Vishnevski, NJ (roughing), 11:55.

Overtime—7, New Jersey, Parise 20 (Elias, Brodeur) :37. Penalties—None.

Shots on Goal—Pittsburgh 10-14-10-0—34. New Jersey 6-8-10-1—25.

Power-play opportunities—Pittsburgh 2 of 5; New Jersey 1 of 3.

Goalies—Pittsburgh, Conklin 12-3-3 (25 shots-21 saves). New Jersey, Brodeur 28-18-2 (34-31).

A—13,012 (17,625). T—2:31.

Referees—Kerry Fraser, Don Koharski. Linesmen—Darren Gibbs, Dan Schachte.

PSAC standings

Men

Western Division

	PSAC W	PSAC L	Overall W	Overall L
California	5	0	14	4
Edinboro	5	0	15	4
Indiana	3	2	11	9
Clarion	2	3	10	9
Slippery Rock	2	3	4	15
Lock Haven	1	4	1	18
Shippensburg	0	6	6	15

Eastern Division

	PSAC W	PSAC L	Overall W	Overall L
Cheyney	5	1	12	6
Kutztown	4	1	12	7
Millersville	3	2	14	6
Mansfield	2	3	14	6
East Stroudsburg	2	3	13	6
West Chester	2	3	12	9
Bloomsburg	0	5	8	11

Monday

West Chester 77, Felician 59

Today

Cheyney at Univ.of Sciences

Wednesday

Edinboro at California (8 p.m.)
Indiana at Lock Haven
Slippery Rock at Clarion
Mansfield at Bloomsburg
Kutztown at East Stroudsburg
West Chester at Millersville

Women

Western Division

	PSAC W	PSAC L	Overall W	Overall L
Indiana	4	1	19	2
California	4	1	17	3
Shippensburg	4	2	16	5
Clarion	3	2	13	6
Edinboro	1	4	11	8
Slippery Rock	1	4	7	13
Lock Haven	1	4	6	13

Eastern Division

	PSAC W	PSAC L	Overall W	Overall L
Millersville	5	0	16	4
West Chester	4	1	12	7
Cheyney	3	3	6	13
Kutztown	2	3	9	11
East Stroudsburg	2	3	8	11
Mansfield	1	4	6	14
Bloomsburg	1	4	6	14

Wednesday

Edinboro at California (6 p.m.)
Slippery Rock at Clarion
Indiana at Lock Haven
Mansfield at Bloomsburg
Kutztown at East Stroudsburg
West Chester at Millersville

Chris Lofton and Tennessee will face defending national champion Florida at 9 p.m. on ESPN.

Sports dial

Today

Television

7 p.m. - ESPN - Michigan at Ohio State, college basketball.

9 p.m. - ESPN - Florida at Tennessee, college basketball.

8 p.m. - Versus - Carolina at Nashville, hockey.

9 p.m. - ESPN2 - Butler at Valparaiso, college basketball.

Radio

7 p.m. - WJPA (1450) - WPIAL playoff pairings meeting, high school basketball.

9 p.m. - WEAE (1250) - Penn State at Purdue, college basketball.

Men's basketball Top 25

The Top 25 teams in The Associated Press men's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Feb. 3, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote, and previous ranking:

	W-L	Pts	Pvs
1. Memphis(72)	21-0	1,800	1
2. Duke	19-1	1,682	3
3. North Carolina	21-1	1,637	4
4. Kansas	21-1	1,574	2
5. UCLA	20-2	1,552	5
6. Georgetown	18-2	1,433	6
7. Tennessee	19-2	1,394	7
8. Wisconsin	18-3	1,211	13
9. Stanford	18-3	1,170	14
10. Butler	19-2	1,065	12
11. Michigan St.	19-3	975	8
12. Texas	17-4	910	10
13. Xavier	18-4	889	15
14. Indiana	18-3	885	11
15. Drake	20-1	817	16
16. Marquette	16-4	726	17
17. Washington St.	17-4	683	9
18. Texas A&M	18-4	591	23
19. Connecticut	16-5	476	—
20. KansasSt.	15-5	361	22
21. Pittsburgh	17-5	258	18
22. Notre Dame	16-4	224	—
23. Vanderbilt	18-4	171	19
24. Purdue	17-5	143	—
25. St. Mary's, Cal.	18-3	125	21

Others receiving votes: Florida 94, Mississippi 90, Rhode Island 89, Arkansas 78, Gonzaga 60, Arizona 51, Baylor 47, UNLV 37, Louisville 24, Southern Cal 21, Clemson 18, Oklahoma 13, Mississippi St. 8, Saint Joseph's 7, Virginia Tech 5, BYU 2, Ohio 2, Rider 1, UNC Asheville 1.

Women's basketball Top 25

The Top 25 teams in The Associated Press women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Feb. 3:

	W-L	Pts	Pvs
1. Connecticut(50)	21-0	1,250	1
2. Tennessee	20-1	1,200	2
3. North Carolina	19-2	1,143	3
4. Maryland	23-2	1,083	5
5. Baylor	20-1	1,027	6
6. Stanford	19-3	1,008	7
7. Rutgers	18-3	941	4
8. LSU	18-3	929	8
9. California	19-3	790	10
10. Oklahoma	14-4	768	11
11. Duke	16-5	766	9
12. West Virginia	18-3	749	12
13. Old Dominion	17-3	661	13
14. G. Washington	18-4	547	16
15. Pittsburgh	17-4	509	14
16. Notre Dame	17-5	438	20
17. Oklahoma St.	17-3	416	21
18. Kansas St.	15-6	376	18
19. Ohio St.	17-5	301	19
20. Utah	18-3	171	—
21. Texas A&M	16-6	155	—
22. Wyoming	18-3	153	15
23. Syracuse	17-4	147	22
24. Georgia	16-6	133	17
25. DePaul	16-5	131	23

Others receiving votes: Georgia Tech 80, UTEP 80, Vanderbilt 56, Illinois St. 52, Virginia 37, Texas 32, Nebraska 28, Marist 21, Arizona St. 18, Auburn 18, Liberty 10, Iowa 6, Louisville 6, Michigan St. 6, W. Kentucky 5, Chattanooga 2, Montana 1.

Bowling

Charleroi Lanes

New Eagle League

Standings

Monongahela Fire Department, 37-17; A.T. Koury Roofing, 36-18; Maroadi Transfer & Storage, 34-18; Ponce's Place, 31-20; Hoot Owls, 28-23; Hey Andy, 27-25; Charleroi Lanes, 25-25; Yocolano Distributing, 21-29; Eck's Restaurant & Lounge, 16-33; Bill Hermann's Landscaping, 13-37.

High scores

Bob Douglas, 234-593; David A. Speers, 245-592; Rob Hetzler, 202-575; Chuck Patterson, 208-566; Terry Foster, 205-553; Bob Pocky, 220-543; Ryan Gaydos, 199-538; George Andrako, 192-538; Edie Trunzo, 193-519; Jerry Trombley, 194-485.

Playoff field

Boys

Class AAAA

Section 1 - Franklin Regional (18-6); Norwin (18-6); Latrobe (16-8); Hempfield (10-13).

Section 2 - McKeesport (17-3); Central Catholic (19-4); Plum (10-13); Gateway (9-14).

Section 3 - North Allegheny (22-2); Seneca Valley (17-7); Butler (13-8); Shaler (12-11).

Section 4 - Moon (17-6); Canon-McMillan (17-7); Upper St. Clair (19-5); Peters Township (16-8).

Class AAA

Section 1 - Highlands (19-4); Indiana (19-5); Valley (14-9); Hampton (13-10).

Section 2 - Hopewell (18-5); Blackhawk (19-5); Montour (14-10); Ambridge (8-15).

Section 3 - Uniontown (18-4); Greensburg Salem (18-5); Laurel Highlands (12-10); Mt. Pleasant (9-13); Derry (7-17).

Section 4 - Chartiers Valley (22-2); Keystone Oaks (14-10); Ringgold (8-16); South Park (10-13).

Section 5 - Belle Vernon Area (19-5); Steel Valley (16-5); Thomas Jefferson (9-13); West Mifflin (10-11).

Class AA

Section 1 - Jeannette (16-4); Greensburg Central Catholic (16-8); West Shamokin (16-6); Ford City (13-11).

Section 2 - Riverside (23-1); Mohawk (12-7); Summit Academy (11-11); Neshannock (11-10).

Section 3 - South Fayette (19-5); Seton-LaSalle (12-12); Brentwood (14-8); Canevin (12-12).

Section 4 - North Catholic (21-3); ShadySide Academy (17-7); Springdale (16-6); Northgate (7-16).

Section 5 - Monessen (18-5); Washington (18-6); Burgettstown (19-5); Brownsville (11-13).

Section 6 - Beaver Falls (19-3); Aliquippa (16-8); Center (15-7); Quaker Valley (15-9).

Class A

Section 1 - Lincoln Park (14-6); Union (14-6); Sewickley Academy (11-8); Monaca (10-13).

Section 2 - California (15-5); Carmichaels (18-4); Mapletown (13-10); Geibel (6-14).

Section 3 - Serra (21-2); Bentworth (15-7); Clairton (11-10); Cornell (12-9).

Section 4 - Wilkinsburg (12-10); St. Joseph (13-10); Leechburg (7-11); Elderton (5-19); Trinity Christian (3-16).

Girls

Class AAAA

Section 1 - Norwin (23-1); Latrobe (14-10); Uniontown (14-10); Hempfield (18-6).

Section 2 - Fox Chapel (17-7); Woodland Hills (17-7); Oakland Catholic (14-10); McKeesport (13-11).

Section 3 - Butler (22-2); New Castle (18-5); North Allegheny (13-10); Seneca Valley (10-14).

Section 4 - Mt. Lebanon (22-2); Upper St. Clair (18-5); Bethel Park (12-11); Peters Township (17-7).

Class AAA

Section 1 - Hampton (22-2); Indiana (21-3); Highlands (14-10); Mars (11-12).

Section 2 - Hopewell (19-4); Ambridge (15-8); Blackhawk (15-9); Moon (8-15).

Section 3 - Mt. Pleasant (17-6); Derry (13-10); Southmoreland (17-6); Franklin Regional (10-14); Laurel Highlands (9-14).

Section 4 - Chartiers Valley (18-6); Ringgold (17-7); West Allegheny (12-11); McGuffey (9-15); Keystone Oaks (6-16).

Section 5 - West Mifflin (21-3); Elizabeth Forward (20-4); Thomas Jefferson (10-13); Steel Valley (11-12); Belle Vernon Area (6-18).

Class AA

Section 1 - Greensburg Central (16-7); Ford City (17-6); Apollo-Ridge (14-8); Jeannette (14-10).

Section 2 - Riverside (17-7); Neshannock (16-7); Beaver Falls (15-8); Mohawk (10-13).

Section 3 - Canevin (18-6); South Park (16-8); Seton-LaSalle (13-11); South Fayette (16-80.

Section 4 - Shady Side Academy (17-7); Wilkinsburg (11-9); Northgate (9-10); Riverview (10-14); Deer Lakes (9-14).

Section 5 - Washington (22-1); Brownsville (15-8); Beth-Center (14-9); Charleroi (13-11).

Section 6 - Sacred Heart (22-1); Beaver (15-6); Sto-Rox (14-7); Quaker Valley (13-11).

Class A

Section 1 - Quigley (17-7); Rochester (16-7); Monaca (10-12); Cornell (7-11).

Section 2 - Geibel (17-6); Carmichaels (12-11); Mapletwon (14-6); California (8-13).

Section 3 - Monessen (23-0); Serra (15-5); Avella (12-10); Clairton (9-8).

Section 4 - North Catholic (20-4); Mt. Alvernia (13-8); Vincentian Academy (15-8); Avonworth (12-9).

Sports moves

BASEBALL

American League

DETROIT TIGERS—Agreed to terms with OF Curtis Granderson on a five-year contract.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

NEW JERSEY NETS—Acquired F Stromile Swift from Memphis for C Jason Collins and cash.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

ATLANTA FALCONS—Named Joe Danna defensive quality control coach.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS—Named Trent Baalke director of player personnel and Tony Nathan running backs coach.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

ATLANTA THRASHERS—Assigned F Brett Sterling to Chicago (AHL).

CAROLINA HURRICANES—Recalled F Keith Aucoin from Albany (AHL).

COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS—Placed LW Fredrik Modin on injured reserve.

MONTREAL CANADIENS—Recalled G Carey Price from Hamilton (AHL). Assigned G Jaroslav Halak to Hamilton.

PHOENIX COYOTES—Recalled LW Matt Murley from San Antonio (AHL). Assigned LW Daniel Carcillo to San Antonio.

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS—Recalled F Ryan Stone from Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (AHL).

ST. LOUIS BLUES—Recalled D Jeff Woywitka from Peoria (AHL).

SAN JOSE SHARKS—Assigned RW Devin Setoguchi to Worcester (AHL).

WASHINGTON CAPITALS—Recalled RW Eric Fehr from Hershey (AHL).

COLLEGE

TEXAS TECH—Announced the resignation of Bob Knight men's basketball coach. Named Pat Knight interim men's basketball coach.

High school basketball lineups

BOYS

Trinity - 64

McKnight, 6-1-15; Chambers, 4-3-11; Valentic, 2-2-6; Wilkens, 3-2-8; McCaffrey, 2-2-6; Rudman, 0-4-4; Songer, 2-3-7; Frye, 2-2-7. Totals: FG - 21, F - 17 (23), T - 64.

Elizabeth Forward - 61

Giansante, 6-1-13; Cunning, 2-0-5; Gibbons, 4-4-14; Austin, 7-1-15; Scurfield, 2-0-4; Styche, 2-0-6; Lavelle, 2-0-4. Totals: FG - 25, F - 6 (14), T - 61.

Score by quarters:

Elizabeth	4	15	16	26	- 61
Trinity	14	18	11	21	- 64

Three-pointers: Elizabeth - Gibbons 2, Styche 2, Cunning. Trinioty - McKnight 2, Valentic 2, Frye.

Bentworth - 65

Joe Kennedy, 5-4-14; Jon Kennedy, 9-2-20; Selvoski, 3-2-8; Jansante, 5-1-11; Sevcik, 0-4-4; Hoye, 0-2-2; Cl. Roman, 0-1-1; Barker, 0-3-3. Totals: FG - 23, F - 17 (24), T - 65.

McGuffey - 43

Czulewicz, 6-3-17; Baker, 6-1-18; Brown, 2-1-6; Reiohner, 1-0-2; McCollum, 0-0-0. Totals: FG - 15, F - 5 (7), T - 43.

Score by quarters:

McGuffey	6	17	11	9	- 43
Bentworth	18	22	11	14	- 65

Three-pointers: Bentworth - Joe Kennedy 2.McGuffey - Baker 5, Czulewicz 2, Brown.

GIRLS

McGuffey - 61

Schober, 6-6-20; Sheppard, 2-0-5; Cowden, 1-0-2; Czulewicz, 5-0-10; Sismondo, 4-1-10; Pattison., 3-4-10; Deliere, 2-0-4. Totals: FG - 23, F - 11 (16), T - 61.

Bentworth - 49

Marshalek, 1-0-2; Speed, 5-32-13; Kennedy, 6-2-14; Hamstra, 0-2-2; Ritzer, 5-1-11; Dorazio, 1-3-5. Totals: FG - 19, F - 10 (16), T - 49.

Score by quarters:

Bentworth	11	15	12	11	- 49
McvGuffey	9	24	6	22	- 61

Three-pointers: Bentworth - Ritzer. McGuffey - Schober 2, Sheppard, Pattison.

Mid-Atlantic Hockey League

	W	L	T	Pts
Indiana	29	1	0	58
Wooster	14	13	2	30
Jamestown	12	18	0	24
Mon Valley	10	15	3	23
Valley Forge	8	19	2	18

Friday

Mon Valley at Jamestown, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday

Wooster at Mon Valley, 7:30 p.m.
Valley Forge at Indiana

High school scores

BOYS

Albert Gallatin 61, Uniontown 59
Avella 74, Geibel 73
Bentworth 65, McGuffey 43
Canevin 77, Vincentian Academy 35
Blackhawk 52, Aliquippa 42
Burgettstown 72, West Greene 36
Canon-McMillan 54, Montour 43
Carmichaels 61, Chartiers-Houston 46
Center 72, Rochester 45
Derry Area 74, Blairsville 67
East Allegheny 75, Riverview 66
Ellwood City 58, Laurel 53
Franklin Regional 66, Shaler 49
Gateway 59, Penn-Trafford 46
Greensburg Salem 73, Norwin 68
Highlands 85, Kiski Area 69
Hopewell 58, New Castle 55
Indiana 74, Fox Chapel 69
Knoch 88, Pine-Richland 65
Mars 70, St. Joseph 62
Mt. Lebanon 66, McKeesport 65
North Allegheny 57, Altoona 52
Quaker Valley 72, Sacred Heart 57
Riverside 67, Sto-Rox 61
Seneca Valley 77, West Allegheny 53
South Fayette 59, Serra 55
South Park 71, Southmoreland 57
South Side Beaver 79, Fort Cherry 76
Springdale 48, Wilkinsburg 45
Steel Valley 63, North Catholic 41
Thomas Jefferson 61, Bethel Park 59
Trinity 64, Elizabeth Forward 61
West Mifflin 58, Woodland Hills 37
West Shamokin 63, Kittanning 59

GIRLS

Avella 57, West Greene 35
Baldwin 56, South Park 55
Bethel Park 67, Penn Hills 27
Canevin 61, Knoch 34
Blackhawk 62, Beaver Falls 32
Brashear 75, Winchester Thurston 48
Canon-McMillan 67, New Castle 49
Chartiers Valley 45, Fox Chapel 44
Ellis School 32, South Allegheny 28
Ellwood City 56, Neshannock 41
Ford City 66, Springdale 44
Fort Cherry 60, Avonworth 47
Hempfield 39, Seneca Valley 35
Jeannette 50, Derry Area 44
Kittanning 51, West Shamokin 35
McGuffey 61, Bentworth 49
Mt. Pleasant 70, Uniontown 62
Mt. Lebanon 59, Mars 29
North Allegheny 58, Ambridge 51
North Catholic 42, Hopewell 32
Oliver 42, Neighborhood Academy 40
Sacred Heart 47, Perry 27
Peters Township 49, Latrobe 45
Plum 32, Penn-Trafford 31
Riverside 57, Montour 43
Riverview 59, Leechburg 24
Rochester 57, South Side Beaver 33
Seton-LaSalle 37, Keystone Oaks 31
Shady Side Academy 63, Mt. Alvernia 53
Southmoreland 52, Geibel 45
Steel Valley 49, Beth-Center 44
Vincentian Academy 53, South Fayette 44
West Mifflin 53, Upper St. Clair 51
Wheeling Park, W.Va. 63, Trinity 57
Woodland Hills 66, Norwin 53

In the NBA

Monday's Games

Dallas 107, Orlando 98
Atlanta 96, Philadelphia 91
Toronto 114, Miami 82
L.A. Clippers 103, New York 94
Houston 92, Minnesota 86
Phoenix 118, Charlotte 104
Utah 110, New Orleans 88
Chicago 118, Seattle 108
Denver 105, Portland 103, OT

Today's Games

Boston at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
San Antonio at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Washington at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at Memphis, 8 p.m.

College basketball

MEN

EAST

Longwood 78, N.J. Tech 68
Saint Joseph's 77, Villanova 55
Siena 76, Marist 72

SOUTH

Alabama A&M 73, Texas Southern 65
Alabama St. 98, Prairie View 86
Bethune-Cookman 60, Winston-Salem 50
Coll. of Charleston 63, The Citadel 48
Coppin St. 59, Md.-Eastern Shore 54
Georgia So. 80, UNC Greensboro 78
Grambling St. 83, MVSU 79
Hampton 68, N. Carolina A&T 52
Morgan St. 64, Delaware St. 59
Norfolk St. 59, Howard 44
S. Carolina St. 65, Florida A&M 59
W. Carolina 70, Chattanooga 64

MIDWEST

Kansas 90, Missouri 71
Louisville 71, Marquette 57
Wright St. 58, Presbyterian 42

SOUTHWEST

Jackson St. 55, Ark.-Pine Bluff 51
Middle Tennessee 89, Arkansas St. 86, OT

FAR WEST

Fresno St. 70, Louisiana Tech 58
Loyola Marymount 72, San Francisco 67
Saint Mary's, Calif. 89, Gonzaga 85, OT
San Diego 61, Pepperdine 58
Santa Clara 52, Portland 50

WOMEN

EAST

Long Island U. 57, Wagner 53
Quinnipiac 65, St. Francis, Pa. 58
Robert Morris 95, Monmouth, N.J. 83
Sacred Heart 77, Fairleigh Dickinson 61
St. Francis, NY 65, Mount St. Mary's, Md. 61

SOUTH

Alabama A&M 50, Texas Southern 45
Belmont 74, Stetson 63
Chattanooga 73, Davidson 62
Coll. of Charleston 65, UNC-Greensboro 61
Delaware St. 52, Morgan St. 49
ETSU 88, Mercer 57

Announcing the 2008 Pet Superstar
Newspaper in Education
Does Your Pet HAVE WHAT IT TAKES... To Be The 2008 Pet Superstar?
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Deadline to enter February 6, 2008
Proceeds benefit The Valley Independent Newspaper in Education (NIE) Program
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ENTRY FORM FOR THE 2008 PET SUPERSTAR CONTEST!
Your Name: _____ Pet's Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Enclosed Check or Money Order for $10.00 payment* payable to The Valley Independent NIE.
*$10 payment includes $2 entry fee and $8 donation. Donation is voluntary and you may opt. out.
Bill my: Debit Card
Credit Card #: Exp.
I authorize Trib Total Media to automatically debit my selected payment option listed above for my donation.
SIGNATURE: _____
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Monongahela Animal Hospital 724-258-9406 321 Hazelkirk Rd. Monongahela
PET SUPERSTAR 2008 COMPLETE CONTEST RULES
1. To enter, either drop off your photo, completed entry form and $10.00 donation or mail to The Valley Independent Pet Superstar, Eastgate 19, Monessen, PA 15062. Donations are to be made payable to Valley Independent NIE. Checks, money orders, credit cards or cash will be accepted.
2. Color or black/white 4x6 photos will be accepted. Photos can not be returned, but will be available for pick up from April 1, 2008 through April, 30, 2008 at the Valley Independent.
3. All entries must be received by 4:30 pm on Wednesday, February 6, 2008.
4. Only one pet per photo and one photo per entry will be accepted. We will not accept any photo containing humans.
5. Valley Independent readers will cast their votes for their favorite pet photos by ballots made available in the Valley Independent publication, online at http://www.valleyindependent.com/ or at the main lobby of the Valley Independent.
6. Contest will consist of three voting rounds. First round will commence Tuesday, February 12, 2008 and voting will close at 4:30 pm on Friday, February 22, 2008. Round two, consisting of top vote recipients, will commence on Tuesday, March 4, 2008 and voting will close at 4:30 pm on Friday, March 14, 2008. Round three, consisting of top vote recipients, will commence on Tuesday, March 18, 2008 and voting will close at 4:30 pm on Friday, March 28, 2008. Winners will be announced on April 8, 2008.
7. 1st place prize package will be valued at $250.00, 2nd place prize package will be valued at $100.00 and 3rd place prize package will be valued at $50.00.
8. Contest is open to all residents of the Trib Total Media home delivery areas. Employees of Trib Total Media and sponsor companies are not eligible to participate. Prizes won by minors must be accepted by parent or guardian.
9. Void where prohibited by law. All federal, state and local laws and regulations apply.
10. Donations are voluntary, entry and voting may be done at minimal cost by contacting Trib Total Media NIE at 1-800-909-Trib.
11. Additional rules and regulations may apply.

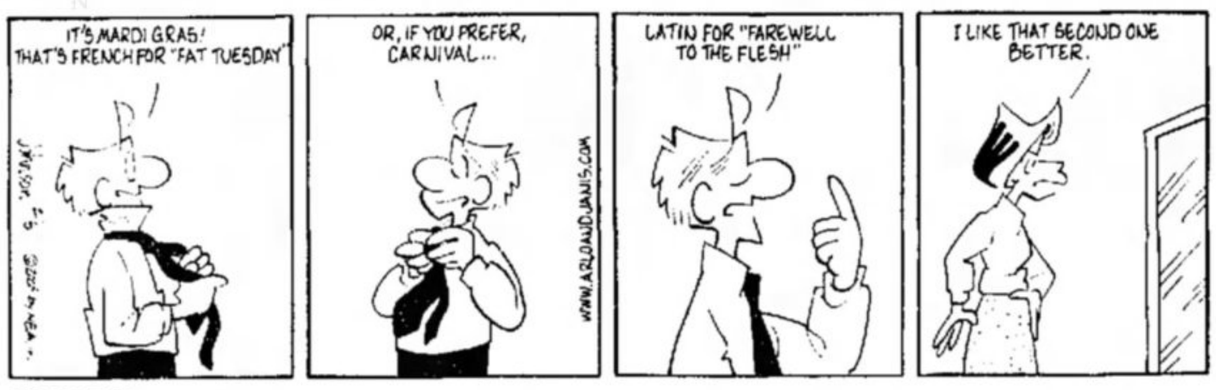
COMICS

CATHY® by Cathy Guisewite

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY FROM MY DOG TO YOUR CAT!
THAT'S SO CUTE! HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY FROM MY PC TO YOUR PDA!
FROM MY SMOOTHIE TO YOUR LATTE!
FROM MY PURSE TO YOUR PURSE!
FROM MY SON'S GERBIL TO YOUR DAUGHTER'S GECKO!
RIGHT ON SCHEDULE.
48 HOURS BEFORE WE'RE SUPPOSED TO PROFESS OUR LOVE TO THEM, THE WOMEN ALL GO INSANE.

GARFIELD® by Jim Davis

ARLO and JANIS® by Jimmy Johnson


IT'S MARDI GRAS! THAT'S FRENCH FOR "FAT TUESDAY"
OR, IF YOU PREFER, CARNIVAL...
WWW.ARLOANDJANIS.COM
LATIN FOR "FAREWELL TO THE FLESH"
I LIKE THAT SECOND ONE BETTER.

Classic PEANUTS® by Charles M. Schulz

PSYCHIATRIC HELP 5¢
I DON'T KNOW.. I JUST FEEL LONELY A LOT OF THE TIME..
THE DOCTOR IS IN
WHY DON'T YOU TRY TAKING DANCE LESSONS?
DANCE LESSONS?
THE DOCTOR
WHAT IF NO ONE WILL DANCE WITH ME?
2-5-08
THEN YOU'LL BE A LONELY PERSON WHO KNOWS HOW TO DANCE
© 1995 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.
THE DOCTOR IS IN

MONTY® by Jim Meddick

E-Mail: JimMeddick@aol.com

IT'S NOT RIGHT... YOU CAN'T JUST PUT "ROGAINE" ON SOME PARTS OF FLESHY AND NOT ON OTHERS... HE'LL END UP LOOKING WEIRD!..
OK. WELL HERE'S THE OINTMENT. YOU DO IT!
CAN'T WE JUST FILL UP A LITTLE SITZ BATH AND HAVE HIM SQUAT IN IT?
FLESHY HAS A NEUROTIC AVERSION TO SQUATTING IN ANY TYPE OF LIQUID OR SEMI-VISCOUS FLUID ...

HI & LOIS® by Mort Walker and Dick Browne

DID YOU HEAR ANN GOT A BELLY-BUTTON RING?
ISN'T SHE WAY TOO OLD FOR THAT?
2-5
SHE SAID SHE'S ALWAYS FORGETTING HER KEYS AND NEEDED A PLACE TO HANG THEM.
CHANCE BROWNE

BEETLE BAILEY® by Mort Walker

HOW ABOUT PROMOTING ME, SARGE?
I TRY HARD... I'M A NICE GUY... NEVER GET IN TROUBLE
IT'S FOOD FOR THOUGHT, ZERO
2-5
SARGE...
SHH, BEETLE, HE'S THINKING
GREG + MORT WALKER

BORN LOSER® by Art Sansom

TODAY IS FAT TUESDAY.
SIGH
AND TOMORROW WILL BE FAT WEDNESDAY... AND THE NEXT DAY WILL BE FAT THURSDAY... AND THE NEXT DAY...
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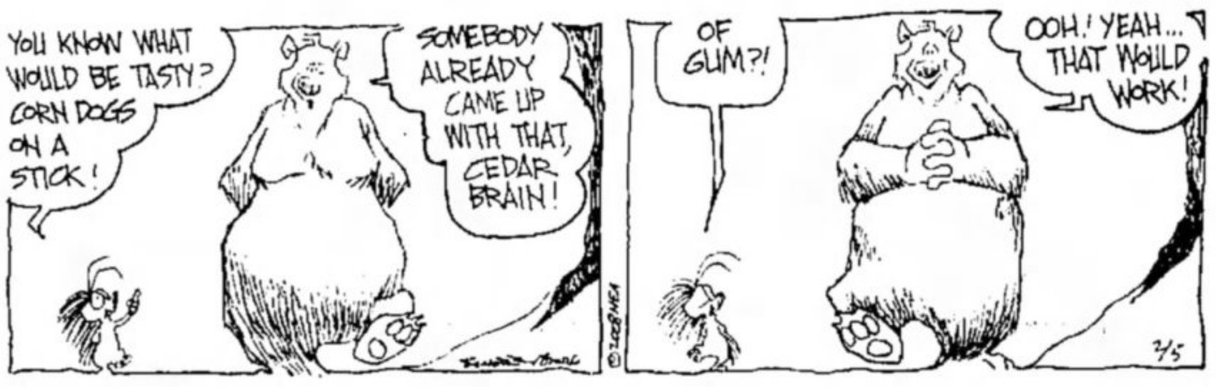
www.comics.com

GRIZZWELLS® by Bill Schorr

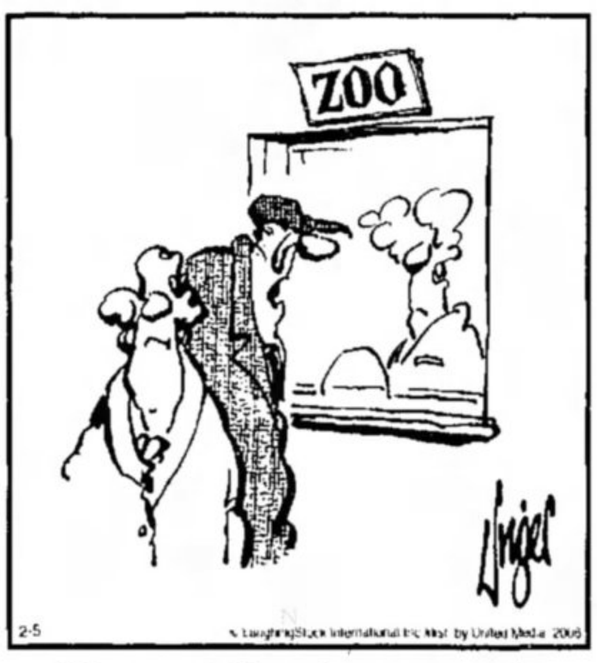

YOU KNOW WHAT WOULD BE TASTY? CORN DOGS ON A STICK!
SOMEBODY ALREADY CAME UP WITH THAT, CEDAR BRAIN!
OF GUM?!
OOH! YEAH... THAT WOULD WORK!

COW AND BOY® by Mark Leiknes

I'M DROPPING OUT, BILLY!
PLAYING GUITAR HERO MADE ME REALIZE THAT I WANT TO BE A ROCKSTAR. SO, I DON'T NEED SCHOOL ANYMORE.
I EVEN TATTOOED MY BAND'S NAME ACROSS MY CHEST.
DEVILLE'S EAR ACK?
IT'S PRONOUNCED 'DEVIL'S EAR-ACHE.'
MAYBE GIVE IT ANOTHER SEMESTER

FRANK and ERNEST® by Bob Thaves

HERMAN® by Jim Unger



"One round-trip and one one-way."

KIT'N' CARLYLE® by Larry Wright

SOUP TO NUTZ™ by Rick Stromoski

CHELSEA MILDEW GOT VOTED PRESIDENT OF BAND BOOSTERS OVER ME?
I NEVER GET TO BE PRESIDENT OF ANYTHING!!
WWW.COMICS.COM
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, BABS... AREN'T YOU ALREADY A PRESIDENT?
OF WHAT?
THE BIG FAT CRY-BABIES CLUB...
MOM!
-StiMeski-

BIG NATE® by Lincolin Peirce

AH! NATE! HALLO!
HERE, ARTUR. THIS IS FOR YOU.
HO! YES? WHAT YOU ARE WRITING TO ME?
IT'S NOT FROM ME.
"HI CUTIE" HA! YOU ARE GAVE TO ME NICK-NAME!
IT'S NOT FROM ME!
YOU HAVE VERY GRACEFUL HAND-WRITING!
IT'S NOT FROM ME!

ALLEY OOP® by Dave Graue

I CAN'T BELIEVE I LOST THAT RING I GOT FOR OOOLA!
AVA WAS RIGHT! I SHOULDA LET HER TAKE TH' TIME T'FIX THAT HOLE IN TH' BAG!
2-5
I CAN SAY WITH MUCH ASSURANCE, OOOLA'S FONDNESS HAS ENDURANCE! SO EVEN IF YOU HAVE NO GIFT, I'M SURE IT WILL NOT CAUSE A RIFT!
I S'POSE YOU'RE RIGHT, FOOZY! THIS WAS JUST SUCH A PERFECT GIFT FOR OOOLA!

MARK TRAIL® by Jack Elrod

TRAIL WON'T BE USING THIS CANOE AGAIN!
WE'VE GOT TO FIND HIM... IF LUKE'S OPERATION IS A SUCCESS, HIS CONFESSION WILL GIVE HIM THE DEATH PENALTY!
MARK, KNOWING THAT IF HE SURFACES HE MAY BE SHOT, SWIMS INTO THE ENTRANCE OF A NEARBY BEAVER HOUSE...
AND ANDY, AFTER REACHING SHORE AND NOT SEEING HIS MASTER, SPEEDS TOWARD THE COMMUNITY
JACK ELROD

THE VALLEY INDEPENDENT Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 "So long!"
4 Male swan
7 Eerie sound
11 Trouser half
12 Memsahib's nanny
14 Type of eagle
15 Ms. Hagen
16 Fictional sub commander
17 Loan figure
18 On horseback
20 Rang
22 — — few rounds
23 Pair
24 Law breaker
27 Threshold
30 Bing Crosby tune
31 Won't share
32 Owned
34 Umbrella spoke
35 Toga-party supply
36 Truck stop sight
37 Baroque style
39 Widely known
40 Swell, in space (hyph.)
41 "Old" London theatre
42 Happened to
45 Came next
49 Verse forms
50 Who — was there?
52 Canine warning
53 Gyro pocket
54 Morse signals
55 Tell tales
56 Bright object
57 Is, to Fritz
58 Hedge shrub

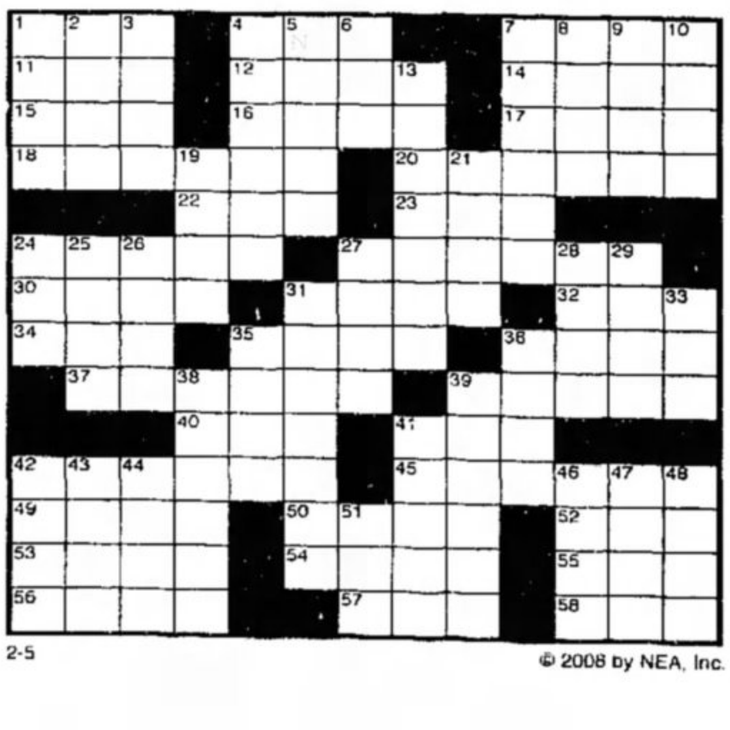
DOWN

1 Make fuzzy
2 Sherpa's sighting
3 By Jove!
4 Big gun
5 Rolex rival
6 Comic-book thud
7 Dry red wine
8 Vaccine type
9 Poker stake
10 Sine qua non
13 Ballgame fare (2 wds.)
19 Inventor — Sikorsky
21 What we have
24 Distant
25 Bahrain VIP
26 Timber wolf
27 Kind of stick
28 Excuse me!
29 Hobbling
31 Badgered
33 Accomplished
35 — & the Gang
36 Kangaroo pouches
38 Rubicon crosser
39 Best
41 Bulletproof attire
42 Strikes a blow
43 Revise a text
44 Greek-salad topper
46 Bad-looking
47 Great Lakes port
48 Took a straw
51 Twice XXVI

Answer to Previous Puzzle

D	A	D			A	B	E	T		B	U	Y
E	P	I	C		P	A	L	I		A	N	A
A	S	P	A	R	T	A	M	E		N	I	L
F	O	S	S	I	L			T	A	S	T	E
			A	M	Y		T	A	U			
A	R	A	B	S		P	A	C	K	E	D	
I	O	T	A		H	A	W	K		P	E	N
D	O	E		L	A	S	S		F	E	E	T
	K	N	E	E	L	S		F	R	E	S	H
			M	A	E		B	O	A			
C	L	O	U	D			O	R	N	A	T	E
R	U	M		S	P	L	O	T	C	H	E	S
A	G	E		O	L	E	S		E	A	R	P
M	E	N		N	Y	E	T			B	I	N

GET MORE in the new "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" series from Quill Driver. Call 800-605-7176.



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release dates: February 9-15

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TM Especially for kids and their families TM

The Mini Page®

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Created by BETTY DEBNAM

The Middle Kingdom

Discover China

from The Mini Page © 2008 Universal Press Syndicate

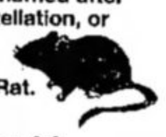
The early Chinese people called their land the "Middle Kingdom" because they thought it was the center of the world. In the world of sports, China *will* be the center of the world this summer, when its capital, **Beijing** (bay-JING), hosts the Summer Olympics Aug. 8 through 24.

Through August, The Mini Page will run monthly features about the ancient country that is today called the People's Republic of China.

This month, we take a close look at the history of China, and we celebrate the Chinese New Year, also known as the Spring Festival. It comes at different times each year, based on the phases of the moon. This year it began on Feb. 7.

China, in eastern Asia, is about the size of the United States. It is the most populous country in the world, with more than 1.25 billion people. About one in five people on Earth live in China.

Chinese traditions are now practiced around the world, wherever there are people of Chinese heritage. In San Francisco's Chinatown, people celebrate the Chinese New Year with a parade. Each year is named after an animal from a constellation, or picture based on a grouping of stars. This year is the Year of the Rat.



Record-breaking civilization

People have lived in the area for hundreds of thousands of years. One of the oldest fossils of early humans ever found is Peking Man, about half a million years old. It was found near Beijing, once called Peking.

China is one of the oldest **continuous**, or still going, civilizations on Earth. Its advanced way of life has lasted more than 5,000 years.

China was one of the places where agriculture began. People in the area were already farming about 6,000 years ago. This gave them an advantage over hunters and gatherers, who moved to follow food sources.

The Chinese offered many items that people in the Western world wanted, such as silk and tea.

About 2,000 years ago, a trade route developed between China and the West called the Silk Road. It ran for about 4,300 miles, through such modern-day countries as Iran and Syria.

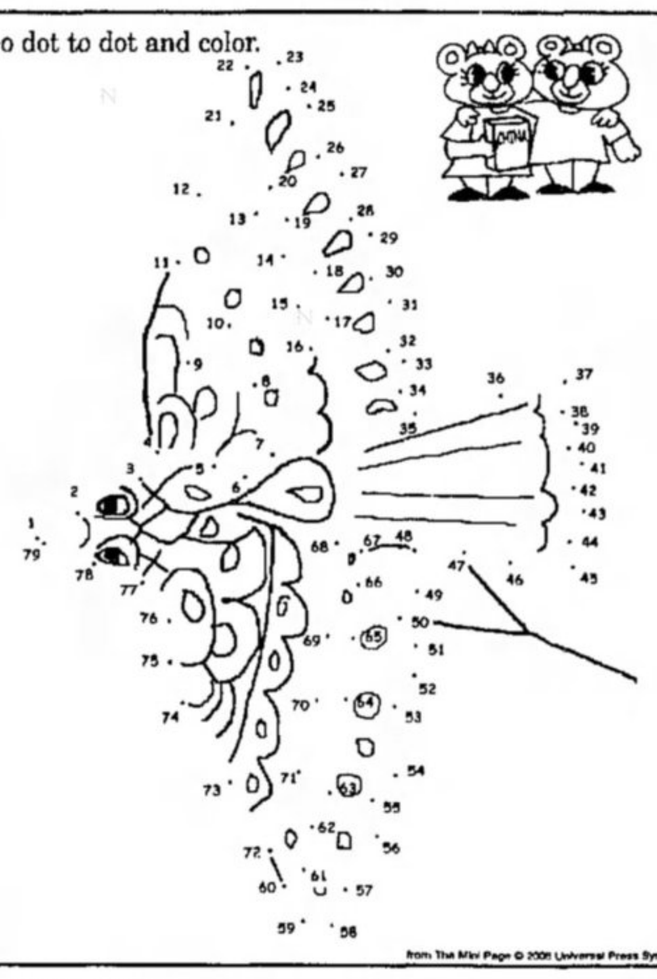
Contributions to the world

Confucius was a great teacher who lived about 2,500 years ago. He taught that people were good and that leaders needed to follow moral principles. His teachings influenced the Chinese and the world for hundreds of years.

The Chinese invented many items long before the rest of the world. The West gained many of these inventions from traders traveling the Silk Road.

Some of the Chinese inventions include: the kite, compass, eyeglasses, gunpowder, paper, printing, the umbrella, paper money, the wheelbarrow, a kind of **seismograph**, or earthquake detector, suspended bridges hung over canyons, boat rudders, and maps on a grid.

Go dot to dot and color.



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Rookie Cookie's Recipe
Easy Vegetable Soup

You'll need:

- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 3 stalks celery, chopped
- 1 medium onion, chopped (about 1½ cups)
- 1 (32-ounce) container chicken broth
- 2 cups beef broth
- 1 (14.5-ounce) can diced tomatoes, with juice
- 1 (11.5-ounce) can vegetable or tomato juice
- 1 cup whole-wheat penne pasta, uncooked
- 2 (15-ounce) cans mixed vegetables, with liquid
- 1 (15-ounce) can sweet white corn, with liquid
- ½ teaspoon basil
- pinch of salt and pepper

What to do:

1. Place oil in a large pot over medium heat. Cook celery and onion for 7 to 10 minutes, until tender.
2. Add both broths, tomatoes and vegetable juice. Bring to a boil, then add pasta.
3. Reduce heat to low and simmer for 20 minutes.
4. Add mixed vegetables and corn; bring to boil again. Add basil and salt and pepper. Simmer for 20 minutes. Makes 10 servings.

**You will need an adult's help with this recipe.*

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Meet Vanessa Hudgens

Vanessa Hudgens stars as Gabriella Montez in the Disney Channel movie "High School Musical 2." She appeared as the same character in "High School Musical." She has appeared in other movies, including "Thunderbirds."

She has also appeared on several TV shows, including "The Suite Life of Zack & Cody." She has made her own CD, and toured with The Cheetah Girls and with "High School Musical: The Concert."

Vanessa, 19, was born in Salinas, Calif. She began acting when she was 8 years old, appearing in stage musicals such as "The Wizard of Oz," "The King & I" and "The Music Man." She took piano, dance and singing lessons.

She lives with her parents and younger sister in Los Angeles. She has been home-schooled for several years, and has already graduated from high school.

Vanessa shares many heritages. Her mother is Filipino, Chinese and Spanish, and her father is Irish and American Indian.

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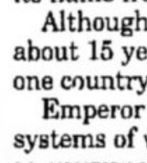
Gus Goodsport's Report
Supersport: Kenny George



Height: 7-7 Weight: 360 Hometown: Chicago

Kenny George looks like the kind of giant you'd read about in a fairy tale. At 7 feet 7 inches and 360 pounds, the University of North Carolina-Asheville center is the tallest basketball player in the NCAA this season. But he's not just a human skyscraper who draws stares walking through airports.

"He's a good basketball player, with good hands, a factor in games," says coach Eddie Biedenbach.

Through the first 16 games, George averaged about 13 points and 9 rebounds and was second in the nation in blocked shots with 71.

George, who played high school ball at the Latin School of Chicago, flashes an arm span of 8 feet, 5½ inches. He also wears a specially made size-28 shoe.

Because of his size, he doesn't drive a car, since he's unable to fit in the driver's seat. But the likable, gentle giant has no trouble catching a ride.

"He's a good guy," Biedenbach says, "and a good team player."

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A Mini Guide to Olympic Sports

The Olympic rings were first used at the 1920 Games. They stood for the five parts of the world that were part of the Games.

The first Olympics were held more than 2,700 years ago in Olympia, Greece. Only Greek men could participate. Winners received crowns made of olive branches. The Games were held every four years.

For the first 13 Olympics, there was only one event — a foot race called the **stadion** (STA-dee-ohn), which the modern word "stadium" comes from. Other events were added later, such as boxing, chariot races, wrestling, the **javelin** (JAV-luhn) and the **discus** (DIS-kus).

The Ancient Olympics lasted for more than 1,100 years. The Modern Olympics began in 1896.

The 2008 Beijing Olympics will have thousands of athletes from about 200 countries. Men and women will compete in more than 300 events in 28 different sports.

Javelin

The javelin, the discus and wrestling are still a part of the Olympics.

A **javelin** is a long spear that is thrown into an open field. Whoever throws it farthest wins the gold medal.

The farthest javelin throws are longer than a football field – more than 300 feet.

Discus

The **discus** is a heavy, metal circle — kind of like a dinner plate. Throwers have to stay in a small area, and they spin themselves around to throw it as far as they can.

The javelin and discus events are included in track and field athletics.

The Mini Page thanks the International Olympic Committee for help with this issue.

Look for more information about Olympic sports in upcoming Mini Page issues!

Wrestling

There are two types of **wrestling** in the Olympics, freestyle and Greco-Roman. Athletes wrestle against people of their own weight, so that no one too big wrestles someone too small.

For many athletes, participating in the Olympics offers a special connection to the past. American wrestler and 2000 gold medalist Rulon Gardner had that feeling in his two Olympic Games.

"Knowing you're out there doing a sport that has been done for so long, you definitely think about all the people in the past who were in the same place, and all the people who will be there in the future," he told The Mini Page.

A wrestler wins by scoring more points against an opponent using a variety of moves and throws.

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A View of China's History

Dynasties

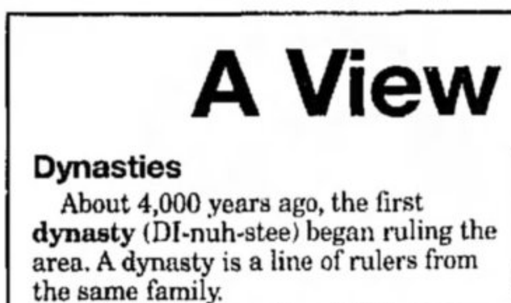
About 4,000 years ago, the first **dynasty** (DI-nuh-stee) began ruling the area. A dynasty is a line of rulers from the same family.

In 221 B.C., more than 2,000 years ago, the emperor Qin (pronounced Chin) Shihuang conquered all the other kingdoms in the area. In China, the family name comes first, so Qin was the name of the family dynasty. China gets its name from this family of rulers.

Although this dynasty ruled for only about 15 years, it united the land into one country.

Emperor Qin set up the same systems of writing for the whole country so everyone could communicate. He also set up the same set of measurements and the same money for the whole country. He built roads through the entire area.

The dynasty system of rule lasted for more than 2,000 years, until 1911.



Beijing was built around the Forbidden City, the palace of the emperor. This group of buildings was forbidden to everyone except the emperor, his family and his staff. It is the largest palace in the world. There are almost 10,000 rooms. Beijing was founded in 1057 B.C.

Like many ancient people, Emperor Qin believed he could take the real world with him when he died. He had an army of 7,000 life-sized terra cotta soldiers built to guard his tomb. Terra cotta is a kind of pottery.

The soldiers are all different, with individual expressions and uniforms. More than 1,000 have been restored. They are lined up in trenches as if they were going into battle. They were discovered in 1974 near the city of Xi'an in central China.

Changing times

In the 1800s, Western countries began to interfere with China's way of life. Britain set up an opium trade with China. Britain went to war to force China to continue trading opium.

When China lost the Opium Wars, it was forced to give many privileges to Britain and other Western countries. In 1898, China was forced to lease the port of Hong Kong to Britain for 99 years.

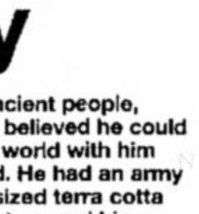
In 1911, rebels overthrew the last dynasty. The last emperor, Pu Yi, was only 6 years old at the time. He later became a gardener and clerk.

China no longer has an emperor.

The People's Republic of China

After the dynasties ended, different groups fought for control of the country. In 1949, members of the Communist Party, led by Mao Zedong, took control of mainland China.

The Communist Party formed the People's Republic of China. Mao ruled for about 30 years.



The flag of the People's Republic of China.

In the late '70s, Chinese leaders represented by Deng Xiaoping began to reform and open up China to the outside world.

Since then, China has made a lot of progress in becoming more modern and improving living standards for its citizens. China today is led by the Communist Party and is working to become a more successful and modern country. It has good relationships with more than 160 other countries around the world.

The Mini Page thanks the China National Tourist Office for help with this issue.

Site to see: www.cnto.org

Next week The Mini Page is about George Washington's rules of chivalry.

Look through your newspaper for stories about China.

from The Mini Page © 2008 Universal Press Syndicate

MIGHTY FUNNY'S Mini Jokes

All the following jokes have something in common. Can you guess the common theme or category?

Kathy: Why is this chop so tough?
Waitress: Well, because it's a karate chop!

Karl: What do you get if you practice karate kicks in the woods?
Kosmos: Chopsticks!

Kyle: What happens if you're a karate expert and you join the military?
K'shana: Watch out when you salute an officer the first time!

from The Mini Page © 2008 Universal Press Syndicate

Basset Brown The News Hound's CHINA TRY 'N FIND

Words that remind us of China are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally. See if you can find: SILK, ROAD, TEA, BEIJING, ANCIENT, CIVILIZATION, AGRICULTURE, MIDDLE, KINGDOMS, PAPER, PRINTING, KITE, GUNPOWDER, DYNASTY, EMPEROR, SOLDIERS, WAR, COMMUNIST, MAO.

B K S R E D W O P N U G M M M
E E I I W L S R E I D L O S I
I M P T L A L T N E I C N A D
J P A V E K R Y T S A N Y D D
I E P R M G N I T N I R P V L
N R E O A W S M O D G N I K E
G O R A O L T S I N U M M O C
M R M D E R U T L U C I R G A
T E A N O I T A Z I L I V I C

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Mini Spy ...

Mini Spy and her friends are visiting the terra cotta soldiers on exhibit in China. See if you can find: • man in the moon

- heart
- banana
- peanut
- two fish
- snail
- football
- apple
- sailboat
- number 8
- frog • cat
- letter H
- comb • lips
- teapot

The Mini Page Staff

Betty Debnam - Contributing Editor Lisa Tarry - Managing Editor Lucy Lien - Associate Editor Wendy Daley - Artist

This Mini-Page Is Sponsored by MVHR Mon-Vale Health Resources, Inc.

FEATURES

Frugal Living

10 places that need your help

Sara **NOEL**

It's the season for reselling unwanted gifts and rearranging our homes to accommodate new stuff. Out with the old and in with the new. Before you profit or purge, consider that there are others who will find value in the things you don't want.

If you believe you don't have anything to give, think again. There are many charities that will put your unwanted belongings to good use. Here are a few that accept common items.

UNWANTED SHOES: If you have shoes taking up space in your closet, I encourage you to donate them to Soles4souls (www.soles4souls.org). It provides shoes to people who need them desperately.

UNWANTED SKIRTS, BLAZERS, BLOUSES: Dress for Success (www.dressforsuccess.org) provides professional apparel to disadvantaged women to help them dress for job interviews. It provides a professional wardrobe, too, for women who find jobs. It is particularly in need of large-sized professional attire.

GENTLY USED STUFFED ANIMALS: If you're looking for a way to introduce your children to donating, SAFE (www.stuffedanimalsforemergencies.org) is a wonderful place to consider. It'll accept your gently used stuffed animals, then clean and repair them and distribute them to children in need.

HAIR: If you have long hair and are considering a shorter haircut, please donate your hair to Locks of Love (www.locksoflove.org). Your donation is used to make hairpieces for disadvantaged children experiencing medical hair loss. Simply place your hair in a ponytail or braid when having it cut, and mail it to Locks of Love, 2925 10th Ave. N, Suite 102, Lake Worth, FL 33461-3099. Colored and permed hair is accepted, but bleached hair is not. Hair should be at least 10 inches long and packaged in a plastic zipper-type bag, then in a padded envelope that includes a slip of paper with your name and address. Call (561) 963-1677 if you have questions.

COATS: While some charities accept only new coats, One Warm Coat (www.onewarmcoat.org) accepts gently used coats. Visit the Web site to locate a coat drive near you or start one yourself.

USED GLASSES: Help people in developing nations improve their vision by donating your used glasses to Lions Club (www.lionsclubs.org). Children's glasses are particularly needed. You can locate collection boxes in your community or mail to Lions Clubs International, Attention: Receiving Department, 300 W. 22nd St., Oak Brook, IL 60523.

CRAFT, SCHOOL AND OFFICE SUPPLIES: If you have craft items (yarn, paper-towel tubes, ribbon, knitting needles or buttons) or office supplies (pens, pencils, rubber bands, used calendars or CD jewel cases), they can be donated to SCRAP (www.scrapaction.org), which creatively reuses these materials through various art workshops; the organization also resells the materials through its store for educational and creative use. While SCRAP serves the Portland, Ore., area, it has a list on its Web site to help you find similar organizations near you.

SEWING MACHINES OR COMPUTERS: If you have these items collecting dust, consider giving them to the Filipino's Children Fund (www.fcfinc.org). Donations are shipped to schools and organizations to help needy people. A simple sewing machine can be a way for a disadvantaged person to earn a living. For more information, contact Ross Inciong at ross@fcfinc.org.

GARDEN SEEDS: WinterSown (www.wintersown.org) accepts donations of seeds. The seeds are used to help further its winter-seed-sowing educational efforts. Seeds are given in bulk to worthy organizations and also provided for only the cost of postage to interested individuals. WinterSown will accept saved seeds as well as packaged seeds.

FREE SAMPLES: If you have personal-grooming samples or trial-sized items stacking up, they can be sent to our soldiers. Visit Any Soldier (www.anysoldier.com) to find a soldier. Of course, they can use much more, but these individual-sized items can be useful.

To send tips, comments or questions, write to Sara Noel, c/o United Media, 200 Madison Ave., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10016, or e-mail sara@frugalvillage.com.

CALENDAR WATCH

Wednesday

■ Fish fry, St. Paul Episcopal Church, Monongahela, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

■ Fish fry, Transfiguration Parish, Monongahela, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

■ Fish dinner, St. Michael Church, Elizabeth Township, 4 to 7 p.m.

■ M.A.R.S. luncheon meeting, 11:30 a.m.

■ Pirohi sale (frozen only) Holy Trinity Russian Church, California, 3 to 6 p.m.

■ Bentleyville Public Library board of trustees meeting, reading room of library, 7 p.m.

■ Fish dinner, St. John Church, Perryopolis, 3 to 6:30 p.m.

■ Fish fry, St. Joseph Church, Roscoe, 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

■ Kindergarten registration, Bentworth Elementary Center, by appointment.

■ Fish fry, Epiphany of Our Lord Church, Monessen, 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

VALLEY GRAPEVINE

Ash Wednesday service scheduled

The First Presbyterian Church, 501 Fayette Ave., Belle Vernon, will have an Ash Wednesday service noon to 1 p.m. Feb. 6 with the imposing of ashes.

Daley aide coming to Charleroi

A legislative aide from the office of State Rep. Peter J. Daley will be at the Charleroi Municipal Building 2 to 4 p.m. Wednesday to meet with constituents. Matters dealing with state government can be referred to this office.

Donora Library board to meet

The Donora Library board of directors will meet 6 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month, with the exception of February. The February meeting will be held Feb. 13.

The library's spring story time for 3-5 year olds will begin 1 p.m. Friday. Signups are requested as space is limited.

Charleroi K of C plans fish fry

Charleroi Knights of Columbus will hold a fish fry 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. Friday and each Friday through Lent, with the exception of Good Friday, at the council home, 702 Fallowfield Avenue. For takeouts, call (724) 489-4776.

K of C Council 3026 to meet Thursday

Belle Vernon Knights of Columbus Council 3026 will meet 8 p.m. Thursday at St. Timothy Church, Smithton.

Choral festival scheduled Friday

Belle Vernon Area and Elizabeth Forward High Schools are co-hosting the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association's District 1 Choral Festival. District choir is made up of 165 students from 63 high schools in Westmoreland, Washington, Fayette, Greene and Allegheny counties. Belle Vernon Area High School choral director Michael W. Rozell and Elizabeth Forward High School choral director Angela Berna Milliren are serving as co-hosts for the event. The students will arrive Wednesday and begin rehearsing for the concert, which will be held at the Elizabeth Forward High School auditorium 7 p.m. Friday. Guest conductor will be Captain Daniel F. Toven, conductor of the United States Army European Soldiers' Chorus in Heidelberg, Germany. Accompanist will be Lisa Spang, music teacher at Elizabeth Forward School District. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

Doughnut sale set in Monongahela

Transfiguration Parish, Monongahela, will host a doughnut sale 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday.

Quartet to perform at Charleroi church

The Steel City Quartet will be in concert 10:45 a.m. Sunday at the Charleroi Baptist Church. The church is located behind the Dairy Queen on Route 88 in North Charleroi. For information or directions, call the church office at (724) 489-1040.

Spaghetti dinner scheduled at grange

Ginger Hill Grange will sponsor a spaghetti dinner noon to 6 p.m. Sunday at the grange building, Route 136 between Monongahela and Eighty Four. Proceeds will benefit the Monongahela Salvation Army Service Unit.

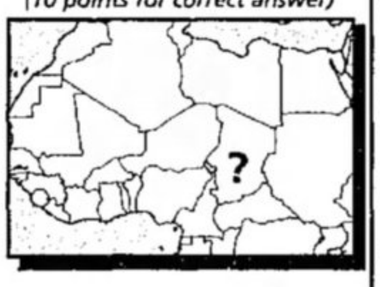
Soup dinner set at Duquesne church

The Hungarian Reformed Church, 1411 Kennedy Ave., Duquesne, will sponsor an all-you-can-eat soup dinner 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday. The menu includes all you can eat four authentic Hungarian soups: Chicken with home-made noodles, vegetarian potato, Hungarian beef gulyas with csipetka (gulash) and green bean with bacon. Also included will be homemade bread, dessert and beverage. Reservations must be placed by Thursday by calling (412) 469-2185 or e-mail magyarchurch@aol.com. Takeouts will be available while supplies last.

THE QUIZ

NEWSPLACE

(10 points for correct answer)



Thousands of people are fleeing N'Djamena, the capital city of this African nation, after two days of fighting between rebels and government forces. Aid workers are especially concerned about some 400,000 refugees from neighboring Darfur who live in camps in the eastern part of this nation. The government accuses Sudan of backing the rebels, although Sudan denies it. This country has been wracked by civil wars and invasions since it gained independence from France in 1960. The recent discovery of oil has only increased power struggles. Name this country.

WORLDSCOPE

(10 points for each correct answer)

1-Three weeks of brutal winter storms have paralyzed the Asian nation ..?.., claiming at least 60 lives.

2-Former New York City mayor and Republican ..?.., and Democrat John Edwards both dropped out of the presidential race last week.

3-Google Inc., the number one online search engine, has raised questions about Microsoft's proposed $42 million takeover of rival ..?.. Inc.

4-..?.. reportedly launched a low-orbit research rocket to inaugurate its new space center, sparking criticism from the West.

5- A new report says that the number of ..?.. in the Army in 2007 increased by more than 20 percent over the prior year.

PEOPLE/SPORTS

(5 points for each correct answer)

1. Who is assistant dean of student services/media at California University of Pennsylvania?

2. Name the only girls' basketball team that remains unbeaten in the WPIAL?

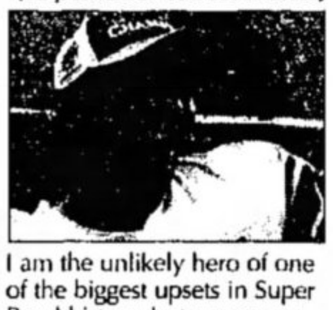
3. Who is the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission's chief engineer?

4. Who led the Cal U Vulcans men's team in scoring against Slippery Rock last week?

5. Who is Washington County District Attorney?

NEWSNAME

(15 points for correct answer)



I am the unlikely hero of one of the biggest upsets in Super Bowl history. Just a year ago my older brother led the Indianapolis Colts to the Super Bowl title. This year I led my team to a late-game lead over the unbeaten New England Patriots, who had been heavily favored to win the game. With 35 seconds left on the clock, I threw the winning 13-yard touchdown pass. I was named the Most Valuable Player of Super Bowl XLII, making my brother and me the only sibling combination to win the Super Bowl and the MVP trophy in successive years. Who am I? What team do I play for?

YOUR SCORE: ©Knowledge Unlimited, Inc. 2-04-08

91 to 100 points *TOP SCORE!* 71 to 80 points *Good*
81 to 90 points *Excellent* 61 to 70 points *Fair*

ANSWERS

NEWSPLACE: Chad
WORLDSCOPE: 1-China; 2-Rudy Giuliani; 3-Yuhou; 4-Iran; 5-suicides
NEWSNAME: Eli Manning, New York Giants
PEOPLE/SPORTS: 1-J.R. Wheeler; 2-Monessen Lady Greyhounds; 3-Frank Kempf; 4-senior Ali Mbaye; 5-Steve Topruni

CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

Today's clue: E equals F

"CD CTALHJ ND LNR GHHF PTRA GX INFX SHU ND ALX TDNMXJRX: WJXRXDA XMXJOVLXJX CDU MNRNGIX DHVLXJX." - STRACMX EICTGXJA

PREVIOUS SOLUTION — "The only correct actions are those that demand no explanation and no apology." - Coach Red Auerbach

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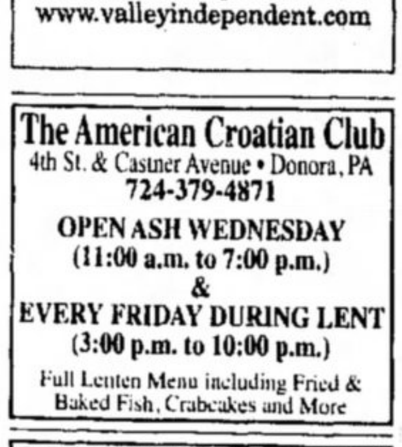
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While work-at-home and other informational advertising is often legitimate, we advise readers to fully investigate the background of any company before paying a fee. If an offer sounds "too good to be true", it probably is. Proceed with caution if you are asked to send money or in calling 900 numbers. All phone numbers prefixed by "900" are charged to the caller on a per minute or per call basis. The Valley Independent makes every effort to qualify these charges for the reader. Remember, if you have any doubts, investigate!

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2010/ESTATE NOTICES

ESTATE NOTICE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of ROSE M. CRAWFORD late of Washington County, deceased, having been granted by the Register of Wills of Washington County, notice is hereby given to all persons indebted to said estate to make immediate payment, and to those having claims against the same to present them without delay to

Gary Crawford,
Executor
318 Washington Ave.
Charleroi, PA 15022
1/22 29 2/5

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2010/ESTATE NOTICES

Frank, George J.
ESTATE NOTICE
No. 63-08-0070

Estate of George J. Frank, Sr., Late of California Borough, Washington County, Pennsylvania. Letters Testamentary upon the above estate having been granted to the undersigned, notice is hereby given to all those indebted thereto, to make immediate payment, and to all those having claims or demands to present them for settlement and/or consideration by the undersigned or his attorneys.

George J. Frank, Jr.,
435 Knob Road
Brownsville, PA 15417

Peter J. Daley & Associates, P.C.
Peter J. Daley II, Esquire
242 Wood Street
California, PA 15419
1/29,2/5,12

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2010/ESTATE NOTICES

Marcinko, Anna Marie
ESTATE NOTICE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of Anna Marie Marcinko a/k/a Ann Marcinko, late of Washington Township, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, deceased, having been granted by the Register of Wills of Fayette County, notice is hereby given to all persons indebted to said estate to make immediate payment, and to those having claims against the same present them without delay to

Elenor Jean Lofink
Executrix
1334 Paradise Avenue
Belle Vernon, PA 15012

Alan Benyak, Esquire
401 Sixth St. at Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 1
Charleroi, PA 15022
2/5,12,19

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2010/ESTATE NOTICES

Swart, William E.
EXECUTOR NOTICE

Letters Testamentary on the estate of WILLIAM E. SWART, Court Term No. 63-07-1333, late of Monongahela, Washington County, deceased, having been granted to the undersigned by the Register of Wills of Washington County, notice is hereby given to all persons indebted to said estate to make immediate payment and to those having claims against the same to present them to the undersigned, duly authenticated for settlement.

JAMES W. HAINES, JR.
ATTORNEY AT LAW
1202 WEST MAIN ST.
MONONGAHELA, PA 15063

Mary Lou Smuzinick,
Executrix
106 Caroline Avenue
Monongahela, PA 15063
1/22,29,2/5

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4100/PERSONALS

ASTRO GRAPH

Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 6, 2008

AQUARIUS
January 20 through February 18

Aquarians are born with an instinct of what is to come and in the year ahead, this natural talent will enable you to be always one step ahead of your competitors. It will give you the wherewithal to achieve what you truly want.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Timing is always of vital importance. Fortunately, this is your strong suit and will be quite helpful to you where your work or career is concerned. Do as your instincts dictate.
PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Beginning immediately, start looking ahead a bit, because when you do, you will be able to blend your present efforts favorably with your future aspirations and make life a whole lot easier for yourself.
ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- It is always important as to how you conduct yourself in front of others, but it is especially vital in ways that will have a bearing on your job or career. Make certain that your grades are quite high.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Without minimizing or ignoring your logical reasoning on issues, people or things, make certain that you take into consideration the feelings of others. Decisions you make must have a broad appeal.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Devote your time and efforts to the types of dealings, trading or negotiations you enjoy doing, and the odds are you will have a productive and rewarding day. It pays to be choosy if you can.
CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- The artistry you employ when dealing with people could be quite impressive. Your style and finesse will win you both cooperation and success in your important endeavors, not to mention favorable reviews.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Your natural ability to handle and deal with underlings in ways that make them feel important will win you extra points, but more important, it encourages them to put forth the extra effort they normally wouldn't do.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- What a boost it will be to your ego when you find out about all the nice things associates and friends are saying about you. Your high ratings are even coming from those who aren't normally supporters.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- If you handle your financial involvements with careful consideration, this could be a red-letter day. Your chances for improving upon that which you've already acquired are better than usual.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Mother Nature's emphasis is on your leadership qualities at this time. Since the influence is mostly positive, make the most of your dealings with others and they will follow you without question.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Your natural eye for elegance is well focused right now, so it is an especially good time to go shopping for large-ticket items. You will purchase things that will stand the test of time and be treasured for a long time.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Success in all your endeavors is indicated. This is especially true when you know others are affected by your doings, because it will motivate you to do the greatest good for the greatest number.

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Dodge
911Clairton Blvd. Route 51
412-469-2800

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Autoplex
Rts. 51 & 71
Belle Vernon, PA
724-929-8000

C. Harper
Ford
Rt. 51 Belle Vernon
727-929-2900

Davies
Ford of Charleroi
Route 88-McKean Ave.
Charleroi, PA
724-483-5541

Davies
Ford of Connellsville
Route 119 N.
Connellsville, PA
724-628-2720

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Monongahela, PA
724-258-5124

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Monessen, PA
724-684-9100

Gerry Raymond
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Belle Vernon
724-379-7300

Monongahela
Ford
210 Fourth St
Monongahela, PA
724-258-8800

Rainbow
Honda
Route 40 Richeyville, PA
724-632-6853

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www.rotolomotors.com

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724-489-9547

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Sea-Doo • Ski-Doo • Can-Am
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Carmichaels, PA
724-966-2600
www.solomonauto.com

Tregembo
Ford
170 Exit 32B
Bentlyville, PA
724-239-2200

Uniontown Toyota
650 West Main St. •
Uniontown, PA 15401
724-437-8422

Washington
Ford
507 Washington Road Route 19
Washington, PA
724-225-5100

Woltz & Wind
Ford
2100 Washington Pike
Carnegie, PA 15106
412-279-4551

3 Rivers Volkswagen
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McMurray, PA
724-941-6100

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2020/BID NOTICES

NOTICE

Sealed proposals will be received by the Westmoreland Intermediate Unit to upgrade the media and technology presentation equipment for Blue Room 1 and 2. Site visit required prior to bid submission. Specifications and instructions are available from the Personnel Office, 102 Equity Drive, Greensburg, PA 15601 or call 724-836-2460 ext. 2262. All bids must specifically identify the bid on the outside of the envelope and be delivered to the Westmoreland Intermediate Unit at the above address no later than 4:00 p.m. prevailing time on Friday, February 15, 2008. Bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, February 18, 2008 in the Board Room of the WIU at the above address. The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids or part of any bid.

Joseph R. Paulisick
Director of Human Resources and Management Services
1/30;2/5,11

2030/MEETING NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF CARROLL TOWNSHIP

The Carroll Township Zoning Hearing Board shall hold a hearing, in accordance with the Municipalities Planning Code, to consider, under the Carroll Township Zoning Ordinance, an Appeal of Richard Popp, Executor of the Estate of George Popp, requesting a non-conforming use for an existing building previously operated as a bar and restaurant to again operate as a bar and restaurant, zoned R-2, at 1109 Route 837, which is at the corner of Route 837 and Albert Avenue.

A copy of the Zoning Ordinance, as amended, the Zoning Map of Carroll Township, a description of the parcel as well as a copy of each appeal can be examined at the Municipal Building, 130 Baird Street, Monongahela PA 15063 between 8:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M. Monday through Friday, except holidays.

This hearing on the appeal to the Zoning Hearing Board will be held on February 20, 2008, at 7:00 P.M. at the Carroll Township Municipal Building.

Dennis R. Paluso
Solicitor
Carroll Township
Zoning Hearing Board
2/5,8

Service Directory

Has the pros.
The Valley Independent
Service Directory 30 days pre-paid $53.01

2050/CORPORATE NOTICES

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

NOTICE is hereby given that Articles of Incorporation were filed with the Department of State, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on February 4, 2008, for the purpose of obtaining a Certificate of Incorporation of a proposed Non-Profit Corporation which was organized under the Business Corporation Law (BCL) of 1988, 15 Pa.C.S. 1101 et seq. (AIC) and 15 Pa.C.S. 4101 et seq. (COA).

The name of the corporation is South Western Instructional Fastpitch Teams, aka SWIFT, with its principal place of business being located at 617-A Giffin Avenue, Canonsburg, Pennsylvania 15317.
2/5

2060/GOVERNMENT NOTICES

NOTICE

The Borough of Fayette City is currently asking interested residents to submit a letter of intent to fill a vacant position for a five-year term on the Sewage Authority Board. Letters should be sent to "Vacant Sewage Authority Seat" c/o Secretary of the Borough of Fayette City, RD1, Box 544, Fayette City, PA 15438 and should be received by Friday, February 29, 2008.

Daphne M. Livingstone
Borough Secretary
2/5

4000/ADOPTION

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4070/LOST & FOUND

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4100/PERSONALS

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5000/APPAREL & JEWELRY

14 KT. 2-tone San Marco bracelet. 17 grams. $300/best offer. 14 kt. White gold diamond ring size 7. $500 firm. 724-938-8823.

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5000/APPAREL & JEWELRY

HARLEY DAVIDSON leather & wool jacket XL, excellent condition. $130.00. 724-872-0151.

STEELER WATCH 5 Time Super Bowl, stainless steel, $50/best offer. 724-684-8892.

5020/ARTICLES

GULLET IRON- good condition. I'll give you my recipe. $15. Call 724-483-8360.

POWER CHAIR- large. Quantum 600 with extras. $1,000. Call 724-483-3156.

PRINT- Salvadore Dali, black wooden frame, 21½" x 31½". $50. Call 724-929-0223.

PRINT- Salvadore Dali, black wooden frame, 29"x 25". $50. Call 724-929-0223.

5035/BABY ITEMS

HIGH CHAIR- wooden, Eddie Bauer, plastic tray. Excellent. $50. Call 724-929-0223.

LEARNING HOME CENTER- Fisher Price. Excellent condition. $20. 724-929-0223.

5150/HOME HEALTH CARE

LIFT CHAIR- 3 years old, hunter green, excellent. Paid $600; sell $304. 724-929-4963.

5195/SPORTING GOODS

GOLF CLUBS. Power Built new, never used w/bag, $269. 724-483-6724, 412-551-4848.

5220/WANTED TO BUY

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Chains, Bracelets, Rings, Etc.
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STANDING TIMBER & LOGS
Free est. Highly recommended w/references in your area. 1 acre min. Call JE Logging 724-455-5723 or 724-322-0302.

ANTIQUES WANTED blue & gray crocks, quilts, coverlets, pre 1960 toys & pre 1900 furniture. 724-864-5555.

WANTED TO BUY: 3 tickets to Feb. 16 oldies dance at Stockdale Firehall. 724-684-6585.

5540/BIRDS

2 CONURE PARROTS- $100 each. Call after 4pm for details. 724-379-8568.

5550/CATS

CALICO CAT- spayed/declawed, shots, 3 years. $20. Call 724-258-8380.

CAT- white w/gray markings, spayed, shots 6 months. $25. Call 724-258-8380.

5600/LOST & FOUND

LOST- cat, black/brown tabby, "Buca". Brown St., Belle Vernon, behind BP. 724-929-8885.

LOST- Shih Tzu, Roscoe area. Answers to "Penny". Reward. Call 724-216-7480.

6030/TRUCKS

2004 S10 Crew Cab-41K miles, tan, show room condition, garage kept. Nego. 724-483-7105.

6050/PARTS & ACCESSORIES

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6060/VANS

2002 Ford E350 V8 diesel, $4,000. 2004 E250 Ford Econoline V8 gas, $7,500. 724-489-9561.

6080/AUTOS FOR SALE

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CHRYSLER '96 Concorde, one owner, 83,000 miles. A rare find. Tax Return Special. Only $2699

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FORD '98 Windstar Van, very nice family ride. Tax Return Special. Only $2899

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4100/PERSONALS

REAL ESTATE

3060/FOR SALE/WASH.

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Affordable lot with all public utilities. Zoned for 1 family or duplex. Great for small modular home. $16,900.
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3065/FOR SALE/WMLD.

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3066/FOR SALE/OTHER

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CHARLEROI. Fallowfield Twp. 3 bedroom ranch. Beautiful kitchen, secluded area, front deck & summer fun in the above ground pool. $105,000.
CHARLEROI. "New Price" Charming 2 bedroom on 1 ½ lots in Fallowfield Twp. Low taxes! Priced to sell. $57,900.
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Immaculate 3 bedroom solid brick Cape. Hardwood floors. Beautiful cherry kitchen, fully applianced, spacious rooms, cedar closet. Level yard and 1 car detached garage. Home Warranty. $90's.
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3555/APTS-RENT/WASHINGTON

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3605/HSE-RENT/FAYETTE

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4100/PERSONALS

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